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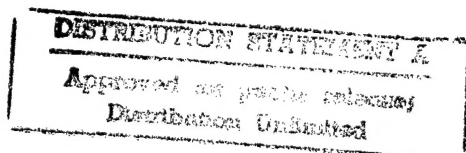


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Karen Insurgent Actions on Thai Border, Leader Viewed

42070003 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai
10 Sep 87 pp 26, 27

[Article by Chawana Chiwin, reporting from the Tanaosi Mountains: "Thailand's Western Region, We Know Very Little and Have Become Careless; Oliver Has Told LAK THAI that the Red Flag Communists Have Forged Links with the Communist Party of Thailand"]

[Excerpt] Just History? Some of the interest in the western region is solely in news about the long struggle being waged by the Free Karen, or Kawthulay, against the central government in Rangoon. This is the same as the Shan in the Shan State. But here, "western region" probably refers to the Karen in particular, because the Shan live in an area to the north of Thailand. In the west, besides the Karen, who have held together as a single group—unlike the Shan, which have divided into five groups, the Muser, which have divided into three groups, and the Khachin, which have divided into two groups—there are also the forces of the Free Mon. Even though they have established their own government and have their own administrative zone, they have, nevertheless, divided into two factions, a left-wing faction and a right-wing faction.

LAK THAI once reported on a visit to a Karen base camp. They said that this was a secret base rather than the location of the central government. The residence of Gen Bo Mya at Sabruak, the base of the 101st Special Battalion, Ban Wang Kha of Sao Tan Mong, and the base at Phalu are all important bases that were established during the past 3 years. These bases are all located in an area stretching south from Pra Chedi Sam Ong to Chumphon and Ranong. This is another province of the Free Karen, which is called Tavoy and Mergui Province. This newest Free Karen area includes the Tanaosi mountains, which separate Thailand from Burma (the Karen say that these mountains separate Thailand from the Karen state) and the people's of the Tanaosi river basin. This also gives the Karen "country" an opening to the Andaman sea. Many people regard the Karen occupation of this area as a farce. Some people have said that it won't be long before the Karen will have to have a navy just like other countries that border the sea.

Meeting with Oliver

In a previous report, LAK THAI interviewed and introduced a Karen officer who has much combat experience. The price on his head is the largest offered by the Burmese government. Lt Col Oliver, the commander of the battalion that is responsible for Tavoy-Mergui Province, the new Karen zone, told us several things. He pointed out several danger points on which Thailand should keep an eye. Thailand should not simply view the Karen, who are democratic, as a buffer in the west and then ignore things in this region.

Last week, LAK THAI talked with him once again at a jungle location quite far from Kanchanaburi City. The exact location must remain a secret.

"It's like this every year. It's the same as last time when Burmese troops attacked us. This is the extent of their capabilities. They use heavy weapons to advance. They use both mortars and artillery, mostly mortars because they are easier to move. They have used artillery at certain points only. They don't dare bring up many pieces. Because last year at Mae Sot, our forces captured an entire Burmese artillery company. In effect, they transported artillery pieces to us," said Lt Col Oliver about Burma sending troops to attack the Karen before the start of the rainy season. The Karen forces refer to these operations as "invasions." This is because they feel that this land belongs to them. The Burmese troops, on the other hand, call the Karen "rebels" who must be eliminated.

"In the past, they invaded our territory and then withdrew. This is the 3d year that they have sent troops to occupy our territory. But they are confined to a limited area and can't go anywhere. This is tantamount to sending troops into an encirclement," he said about the tactical operations of the Burmese government troops.

Expanding the Area

He told LAK THAI that the reason why he asked to meet with us again was that he and his forces will soon move far away and may not have a chance to see us again for a year or two. "Perhaps we will never meet again. Because I am a soldier and am constantly in combat. Nothing is certain."

His main unit will have to cross the Tanaosi River and establish its base on the other side. Originally, the Karen zone of influence was on the right bank of this river, that is, on the side bordering Thailand. But this will change now. The Karen will cross to the left bank of the Tanaosi River near Tavoy City. The soldiers will go first. The (Karen) government will follow later.

LAK THAI asked, doesn't the fact that you are opening areas in Tavoy, Mergui, and Tanaosi mean that you are encircling areas that belong to the Mon? You know that Tavoy, Mergui, and Tanaosi are the homeland of the Mon, and the Mon have a free government just like the Karen.

Lt Col Oliver responded by saying that "that is a political matter. I am a soldier. Our government has announced that that zone belongs to us. I am not interested in what movements might occur. Our zones can overlap. We do not consider them to be an enemy. We share a common enemy, that is, Burma. And we still believe firmly that the 'enemy of my enemy is a friend.'"

Message for Thailand

Previously, Oliver told LAK THAI to keep a close watch on the movements of the Red Flag communists in Burma. This group is an enemy of Burma's socialist government and of everyone else.

The Red Flag communists are trying to expand their zone of influence into all the minority group areas. In the north, they have forged links with the forces of Khun Sa, or Chang Si Fu. Pressure from Thailand has forced Khun Sa to move closer to the Red Flag faction. But he is doing this out of necessity rather than any desire to cooperate in establishing an area under that form of administration.

This Karen officer, who is known as a very skilled fighter, said that the Red Flag communists have entered the Tanaosi area with the intention of forging links with

the CPT [Communist Party of Thailand] terrorists. They have already held talks at a "certain location" in the Karen zone not too far from the Thai border. They are now training and studying together at a camp that is located at a spot that would be difficult to attack.

The Karen forces in this area are just keeping an eye on the movements of the Thai and Burmese communists. Their real enemies are the Burmese government troops. As for others, "they are not yet enemies. But tomorrow, who knows? It depends on the policy."

He told us that the northeast's "Phuphan" has now moved to the west. He wants the Thai government, the Thai military, and the Thai people to start paying attention to what is happening in the west. Once the Thai and Burmese communists have joined forces....

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Biographic Sketches of Various Military Leaders

Maj Gen Sugeng Subroto

42130115 Surabaya *SURABAYA POST* in Indonesian
13 Aug 87 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Since his childhood this youngest son of Raden Subroto has had the spirit of officership. He liked to dance and always chose to dance the part of Gatutkoko. He is from the Dinoyo Tengah area of Surabaya and he attended St. Joseph's Junior High School near Joyoboyo station. He had all the attributes of an ideal student—hard-working, smart, thorough, close to friends and generous. He is not as stocky as Try Sutrisno, his friend at the Wijaya Kusuma State SMA [High School] No 2 in Surabaya, who is now KASAD [Army Chief of Staff]. However, he was outstanding in the group of children his own age in Dinoyo and in school.

Even though he prefers to call himself a son of Surabaya, Sugeng Subroto, the new commander of the Brawijaya military district command [PANGDAM], began life in Bandung on 15 July 1938. He is a Protestant and comes out of the artillery corps.

In fact, in his first public appearance at a welcome and farewell ceremony at Soldiers' Hall Thursday [as published] night, he said that he was from Balungbedo-Krian and that he had lived in Karangredjo and Dinoyo until adulthood.

"He lived at 17 Central Dinoyo," said Let Col Dr Hidayat, head of the 084th KOREM [military district] hospital, Sugeng's partner in sports and classmate. At that time Hidayat lived at V/4, Dinoyo Lor and was Sugeng's constant companion until high school. After graduating from St. Joseph's Junior High School they should have gone on to St. Louis High School. "But because girls and boys used to be separated in Catholic schools, we chose a state high school," added Hidayat smiling, meaning that they purposely chose a co-ed school.

They were in the same year as Try Sutrisno though they were in different classes. Try had graduated from the Kepanjen state school. Try continued his education at the Army Technical Academy in Bandung and a year later Sugeng was accepted at the National Military Academy in Magelang. Meanwhile, Hidayat entered Airlangga University Medical School and took obligatory military training. The two friends met once. Dr Hidayat had the rank of captain and Sugeng was a first lieutenant. Last night they met again. Hidayat was a lieutenant colonel but by now Sugeng was a major general.

"He is a good person, helpful and intelligent," said Hidayat, adding that he was not praising him because Sugeng was his friend and now his superior but rather he was just stating the impression he had gotten from his experiences with him.

If you look at Sugeng closely, you will find him "completely from Java." He was born in Bandung, West Java. His parents were aristocrats from Solo [Central Java]. He spent his childhood and youth in Surabaya. He was the youngest of four brothers. He speaks Javanese, Madurese, and English and German because he was once a student at the Foreign Language Academy.

While he was a student at the National Military Academy he met Maria Cicelia Sundari, who was born in Surabaya and went to school in Yogya. They later married and have four children, two boys and two girls. The oldest has almost finished courses at Airlangga University's Medical School; the next oldest has a degree in economics from Gajah Mada University and is now working. The two youngest are still in high school.

At the ceremony held at Soldiers' Hall on Wednesday night [12 August] Sugeng spoke in public for the first time as PANGDAM V/Brawijaya. He did not read out the speech handed to him by his adjutant, but, as he said, he preferred to "ad lib," especially on that night.

He promised to apply the values of every ABRI [Republic of Indonesia Armed Forces], TNI [Indonesian National Army] and Brawijaya soldier. "I will continue the norms which you have taught us," he said to the guests in the front row, which included several former Brawijaya PANGDAM's, such as Jonosewoyo, Soedirman, Moergito and others.

Sugeng said that Saiful Sulun, whom he has known since they were cadets at the Magelang National Military Academy, was an outstanding person. Sugeng, who made a lot of jokes during his speech said "He is a pleasant person, easy to get close to, and he succeeds at what he does. I hope that I can be like Saiful."

Maj Gen Adolf Sahala Radjagukguk

42130115 Jakarta *KOMPAS* in Indonesian
22 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] KSAD [Army Chief of Staff] Try Sutrisno was in charge of the ceremony transferring the office of commander of KOSTRAD [commander of Army Strategic Reserves] from Major General Suropto, 53, to Maj Gen Adolf Sahala Radjagukguk, 48, yesterday at KOSTRAD headquarters parade ground on Merdeka Timur Street, Jakarta.

Gen Radjagukguk is the first person from Tapanuli to become PANGKOSTRAD [Commander of the Army Reserves Strategic Command]. Born in Medan on 31 December 1938 he is the 15th commander of this command.

When Maj Gen Adolf Sahala Radjagukguk graduated from the National Military Academy in 1961, he was assigned to a battle command in South Kalimantan. He

was then transferred to North Sulawesi. He served in Central Java when he was a young officer so it is not surprising that he also speaks Javanese fluently.

In 1972-73 he took courses at the Army Staff College in England. When he led an operation in East Timor, his achievements were considered outstanding. Since then his career has continued to rise until he was given a star.

He started by being designated KASDAM [Military Region Chief of Staff] for KODAM [Military Region] 13/Merdeka at the beginning of 1980. In 1983 he was promoted to PANGDAM [Military Region Commander] of KODAM 13/Merdeka, replacing Brig Gen Soesanto Wismoyo.

When he was appointed to the post of deputy commander of the Bandung SESKOAD [Army Staff and Command School], he was also given the opportunity to continue his education at the National Defense Institute. From Bandung he went to Army Headquarters in the position of assistant, a post which had been occupied by an officer of the 1945 generation. He held the post of operations assistant for less than 2 years because the Army leadership designated him to replace Brigadier General Sutarto as PANGDAM of the Udayana (Bali-Nusantara) region.

It was learned that Suripto, the previous PANGKOSTRAD, is an officer on loan to TNI-AD [Army of the Indonesian National Military] Headquarters while waiting for a new assignment.

Air First Marshal L. E. Siagian

42130115 Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in
Indonesian 24 Aug 87 p 10

[Excerpt] Air First Marshal L. E. Siagian was given a new post as Inspector for Development of Operations (IRBINOPS), replacing Air First Marshal Sumarno, in a ceremony last Friday [21 August] at the Air Force Inspectorate General, Halim Perdana Kusumah Airbase, Jakarta.

Air First Marshal L. E. Siagian, formerly commander of PUSPASKHASAU [Air Force Special Troops Center], was born in Sigumpar Porsea, North Sumatra, on 23 November 1936. He has had a number of important posts in his Air Force career, including commander of the Palembang airbase and then later assistant inspector for operations in the ITJENAU [Air Force Inspectorate General].

In 1978 he was promoted to commander of the cadet regiment (DAN MENTAR) of the General Land AKABRI [Republic of Indonesia Armed Forces Academy]. After that he held the position of DAN MENTAR Dasar [basic] of the Land AKABRI. Both of those posts were in Magelang, Central Java. He also held the post of assistant for research and development at AKABRI's commando headquarters in 1980.

In the area of military operations he was also assigned to the Trikora Operation in eastern Indonesia. In addition, he was also active in the operation to suppress the G-30S [30 September Movement]/PKI [Indonesian Communist Party], the suppression operation in Ujung Pandang and in the Dwikora Operation in Medan.

Brig Gen R. Soenardi

42130115 Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in
Indonesian 25 Aug 87 p 6

[Text] "It is God the Almighty's mercy and blessing. I thank Him sincerely. I also thank the leaders who have entrusted me with this responsibility. There are few commanders but many candidates for the post of commander." This was the modest statement made by R. Soenardi when he was promoted yesterday morning in Palembang to commander of KODAM [military district command] II Sriwijaya, replacing Army Maj Gen Siswadi.

Soenardi is the third commander of that command since it was reorganized into KODAM II Sriwijaya, succeeding Brig Gen A. M. Rustandi and Maj Gen Siswadi. However, he is the 18th commander of that territorial command since it was created and called KODAM IV/Sriwijaya in the 1950s.

Soenardi was born in Yogyakarta on 31 December 1937. What is interesting is that he was second in command (KODAM chief of staff) of that very command. He was second in command for 3 years and 4 months for two terms of office from April 1984 until yesterday's ceremony transferring power. This is different from the usual situation in which a KASDAM [KODAM chief of staff] in one command is promoted to commander in another command. Perhaps this should be noted in the unusual chain of transfers of office that took place that morning.

With his stocky, sturdy body and dark skin people probably think that this cavalryman is "unapproachable," as the armed cars and tanks over which he rules are unapproachable. People under his command say that he is firm and disciplined. He does not talk much; his work is taut and thorough, like those war machines called tanks. He moves fast, he attacks terrifyingly, he is powerful and frightening. That is also the way he is in facing and carrying out his duties. But it turns out that one can get him to be polite and intimate as happened in his interview with ANGKATAN BERSENJATA 2 days before his inauguration. "Pleasing ourselves while pleasing others. And making as many friends as possible." This is the approach to life that he has held to daily up to now. He does not like to look down on people or consider them worthless. Because, he thinks, every person has his pluses and his minuses.

Three years and 4 months as KASDAM II Sriwijaya made him known and be known by the people of Palembang in particular and the people of southern Sumatra in general. Besides that, he lived in Palembang from 1954

to 1957, when he went to high school there at State High School No. 1. His older brother, who also joined the armed forces, was also there. "So, they're our people!" That is the way Palembang people say it.

After graduating from high school, for several months he continued his education at the Chemical Technical School of Gajah Madah University. Feeling that this training was not suitable for him, in 1958 he entered the AMN [National Military Academy], graduating in 1961. Among his classmates at that time were Maj Gen Sahala Radjagukguk, who was inaugurated on Friday [21 August] as PANGKOSTRAD [Commander of the Army Reserves Strategic Command], replacing Maj Gen Soeripto, Maj Gen Asmono, commander of KODAM II Bukit Barisan and Maj Gen Raja Inal Siregar, commander of KODAM III Siliwangi.

His territorial command experience only began with his posting as KASDAM Sriwijaya. Then he was assigned to fighting units. He was longest in KOSTRAD [Army Strategic Reserves Command], as commander of the cavalry battalion, then head of staff of the cavalry brigade, then commander of the cavalry brigade and finally as assistant for logistics of KOSTRAD from 1978 to 1984.

The new commander's continuing education for leadership includes graduation from SESKOAD [Army Command and Staff School] in 1972-73 and SESKOAB [Armed Forces Command and Staff School] in 1977. He also did well in and graduated from LEMHANNAS's [National Defense Institute] KRA XVI [16] [Administrative Official Course] in 1983.

He is happily married and lives with his wife and four children. Good wishes to him on this promotion. Good wishes as well to the people of the southern part of Sumatra who now have "one of our own" as their commander. It is clear that what he will do is to carry out and continue what the previous commander has pioneered.

Police Maj Gen (Ret) Drs R. Soedjoko

42130115 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
27 Aug 87 p 6,

[Excerpts] Police Maj Gen (Ret.) Drs R. Soedjoko, 57, former Metropolitan Jakarta chief of Police, was inaugurated as inspector general of the Department of Education and Culture [DEPDIKBUD] on Tuesday [25 August], replacing Sukotjo Tjokroatmodjo, whose term of office was over. Soedjoko is not new to the DEPDIKBUD. From 1973 to 1978, when Syarif Thayeb was minister of the department, Soedjoko was director of student affairs of the higher education directorate. In addition, almost his entire career has been with the police, starting with service in Irian Jaya after graduating

from the PTIK [Police Science College] in 1961, then as KADAPOL [Police Region Chief] in Maluku, then in Jakarta and finally as Police Headquarters deputy for administration.

Col Poedjono Pranyoto

42130115 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian
27 Aug 87 p 6

[Excerpts] On Thursday 27 August CZI [engineering corps] Col Poedjono Pranyoto, 54, district head of Cilacap, will be inaugurated as deputy governor of Irian Jaya, replacing Sugiyono, by minister of internal affairs Supardjo Rustam. On the same occasion Drs Jemmi Moh. Ibrahim, provincial secretary of West Kalimantan, will be inaugurated as deputy governor of that province, replacing Abassuny. Poedjono Pranyoto was born in Purwokerto on 6 August 1936 and has been district head of Cilacap for two terms of office. His second term of office will actually end in 1989. After completing high school in 1958 he went on to the AMN's [National Military Academy] Technical School, from which he graduated in 1961. He then continued his applied training at the AKMIL [Technical School] of the AKMIL [Military Academy], at MOSPASI [Sectional Officers Military Operational Specialty], at SUS JAB [Officials' Course], at SUS DASAR PARA [Paratroopers Basic Course], and finally he took the Territorial Officials' Course in 1977-78.

His military career began as PAMA [company grade officer] of Army DIKSI [education section] in Bandung with the rank of first lieutenant. He then entered the engineering corps. The positions he has held are: teaching PABA [aide] in Army PUSDIKS [education center] in Bogor, commander of company B second construction battalion in Jakarta, commander of second construction company/Alber [heavy equipment] in Jakarta, second section head of construction regiment 3/KOKON [confrontation command] KOLOGAD [army logistic command] in Jakarta, deputy commander of the fourth battle engineering battalion of military region VII/Diponegoro in Magelang, and PS [unknown] fourth battle engineering battalion of military region VII/Diponegoro in Magelang.

Starting 1 July 1977 he continued his military career outside the engineering corps's unit with the rank of lieutenant colonel as commander of military district 0703 Cilacap for 2 years. Then on 19 November 1979 he was inaugurated as the 13th district chief of Cilacap. He was promoted to CZI [engineering corps] colonel on 1 July 1982.

Poedjono Pranyoto did not marry until he was 32 years old, on 11 February 1968, when he married Sri Mulyani Wahjuningsih, a girl from Bogor. At that time Capt Poedjono Pranyoto held the position of commander of

company B construction engineering battalion II in Jakarta. The marriage took place in Mataram, Lombok (West Nusa Tenggara). He now has two daughters and a son.

When Poedjono Pranyoto was inaugurated as the 13th district head of Cilacap on 19 November 1979, Supardjo Rustam, at that time governor of Central Java, said "when you become a leader, don't be stand-offish, don't be critical; you must be able to become one with the people." That has been Pranyoto's guiding principle in leading development in Cilacap. A system of coordination and discussion has always been the basis for making policy in government and development. The people's aspirations through their representatives in the legislature have never been ignored.

Brig Gen Toni Hartono

42130115 Jakarta *MERDEKA in Indonesian*
28 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Try Sutrisno inaugurated Brig Gen Toni Hartono as governor of the Military Academy, replacing Maj Gen H. Simanjuntak, in Magelang today.

The new governor of the Military Academy was the deputy governor of the Military Academy. The former governor Maj Gen H. Simanjuntak will be given a new post in TNI-AD [Army of the Indonesian National Military Forces] headquarters in the new future.

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COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

**Correspondent: Elderly Venerate Sihanouk, Youth
Don't Know Him**

42070274 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Jul 87 p 14

[Article by Kasemmani]

[Text] On the afternoon of 29 June, the Site B Tour left from in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sanyarom Palace) for the Phetkasem Hotel in Surin Province, where they would stay the night. Those of us who were reporters were able to "take it easy" because our job had not yet started. Early the next morning, all of us had to get out of our comfortable beds and travel about 2 hours to get to Site B. Along the narrow laterite road, we could see children, none of whom was more than 13 years old, dressed in new school uniforms that looked as if they had never been worn before. The children were lined up along both sides of the road to the camp in order to welcome Princess Monique, the wife of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Looking at this, I felt sure that this had all been arranged beforehand. The children standing there to welcome the princess all looked very innocent. All they knew was that someone important was coming to visit the camp. It's unlikely that these children understood why this person was important or what they should feel toward her.

The Site B camp is a very large camp. Approximately 47,000 Cambodians live here. Most of the people that I saw here were elderly men and women and young children. There were signs written in both Cambodian and English. Their message was that the Cambodian people want to be free and that they want only Prince Sihanouk to govern Cambodia. There was a yard used for various activities, but Princess Monique had a music stage similar to that used by what we call a "string combo."

While we were walking around the camp, we heard a loud shout and loud clapping. A man carrying a megaphone shouted a signal and about 5 minutes later we saw the car carrying Princess Monique arrive. Her car was escorted by military vehicles to ensure her safety. Princess Monique greeted the elderly men and women and the children waiting there to welcome her. The elderly people were all very happy that she had come to visit them. The expressions on their faces clearly showed that they had great love and respect for her. This probably meant that they also had great respect for Prince Sihanouk. But the expressions on the faces of the children were quite different. Their expressions did not show any love or adoration. Instead, their expressions showed a desire to see and know an important national figure whom they rarely had a chance to see.

Princess Monique told the Cambodians at this camp that Prince Sihanouk continues to stand side by side with the Cambodian people and that he continues to work for a free and independent Cambodia that can rely on itself and determine its own future. Countries around the world are providing support, and they have given much financial support.

Princess Monique stayed at the Site B camp for half the day and then left. Our group left shortly after that. But before returning to Bangkok, I had a chance to talk to one elderly woman at this camp. This woman, Pum Som, age 83, used to live in Kandan Province near Phnom Penh. She has four sons. She said that she fled to this camp 5 years ago, leaving her sons behind in Cambodia. When she left, she did not tell her sons where she was going. She fled here because she wanted to see Prince Sihanouk. "Everyone must die sometime. But if I can see Prince Sihanouk just once before I die, I will be happy."

Crying, she told me that she had been waiting 5 years to see Prince Sihanouk. Her hope was that he would come here some day. But she has never seen him even once. But seeing Princess Monique today made her very happy. She thinks of her children and of her country and would like to return home. But that is impossible, because she is too old to make the trip.

On our way back to Bangkok, I thought about what this woman had said. It indicates that the elderly are still very attached to things that are too old and rotten to be restored to their original condition. Nothing has changed during the 9 years of war in Cambodia. Everything is still the same. The elderly continue to bury themselves in dreams, dreams that have little chance of coming true.

11943

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

Refugee Pays Smugglers for Trip to Border, Then Returns

42070272 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
3 Aug 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Cambodian Pays 12 Baht of Gold
To Send Children Across the Border"]

[Text] A BAN MUANG reporter stationed in Prachinburi Province reported that at 1900 hours on 1 August, Mr Channarong Loetbunchu, the deputy district officer in Muang District, Prachinburi Province, received a report from Regional Security Volunteers stationed at the Ban Thai Samat Center, Group 6, Ban Nong Sai Subdistrict, Muang District, Prachinburi Province, stating that four strangers, two men and two women, had entered Ban Thai Samat. After receiving this report, he went to this village and took the four strangers into custody for questioning.

During the interrogation, it was learned that all four were Cambodians. They were identified as Mr Chiu Englong, age 73, and his three children, Miss Rieo Englong, age 20, Miss Rim Englong, and Mr Rim Thongtik, age 18. Mr Chiu said that and his three children had traveled from Phnom Penh in order to go to Australia. He had contacted a Cambodian merchant who traded along the Thai-Cambodian border. This merchant had brought them to this village. They were waiting for relatives in Australia to send them money to travel to Australia. They had paid the merchant 50,000 baht to bring them here.

Mr Chiu also said that in order to get out of Cambodia, they had had to pay 12.5 baht [1 baht equal 15 grams] of gold at the Cambodian checkpoint. He said that after sending his three children to Australia, he planned to return to Cambodia. Mr Channarong turned the four over to Police Lt Anuchit Kulasiri, the officer on duty at the Prachinburi provincial police station in Muang District, for further handling of the case and reported the matter to provincial officials.

11943

Court Rejects UMNO Request for Document Inspection in Civil Suit

42130004b Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 15 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 14 August—On 14 August the Supreme Court rejected a request by 12 members of UMNO [United Malay National Organization] to review and obtain a copy of a document for use in connection with a motion which they presented to Datuk Sri Sanusi Junid, the general secretary of UMNO, and other groups. When rejecting the motion, Justice Datuk Harun Hashim said that he had learned that the 12 members will receive enough publicity to make it possible for them to state the facts of their motion "which, in effect," contains various accusations. If they fail to obtain such publicity, it may be proper for them to present a request to inspect the document which has been turned over to the custody of the deputy registrar, the justice said.

While deciding that there were no exceptional circumstances indicated for an inspection of the document, Justice Datuk Harun said that it was proper for the defense (which has not yet presented its case) to be given an opportunity to oppose the charges based on the facts contained in the motion.

The justice said: "Only after hearing the two sides will the question of inspecting the document come up." He declared that if, at that time, it is found necessary to inspect the document, the 12 UMNO members may present a proper motion. The justice also said that because the document is already in the possession of the deputy registrar, there is no reason for concern that the document will be subject to improper use. The 12 UMNO members, in their motion, asked the court to make public the fact that the party congress held in April 1987 was illegal and requested that a new party congress and new party elections be held. They wished to be given freedom to use a copy of the document and data obtained from it for their protection now and in the future, regarding their rights and interests in the motion.

In the motion the 12 UMNO members concerned charged that the party had deliberately and irresponsibly allowed representatives from unregistered branches to take part in the election of members of committees and delegates at various levels in preparation for the party congress. Justice Datuk Sri Sanusi also ordered to be held documents, copies of documents, and minutes of proceedings in connection with the case which bore on and included proceedings of the congress.

Among the documents requested by the 12 UMNO members from Justice Datuk Sri Sanusi is a list of delegates to the 38th UMNO Congress, to the Congress of UMNO Youth, to the Congress of UMNO Women, and the publication in full of all decisions on elections and on the party meetings referred to.

Previously, Justice Datuk Harun said that, clearly, a request for documents is usually made at the end of a submission and that the court order requested on this occasion can only be approved under exceptional circumstances. He said that, although the document was not "extraordinary" and could be obtained by the 12 UMNO members when they were at the Supreme Court, "We need to act in accordance with the regulations."

All of the defendants have until 31 August to present their defense.

5170

Power Struggle Within MIC Noted

42130004a Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 9 Aug 87 p 4

[Article by G. Shanti]

[Text] The decision of Datuk S. Samy Vellu, the president of the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress], not to support any of the candidates seeking the three positions of deputy president has faced party leaders with a dilemma involving the unity and coherence of the party.

Observers believe that the party president will not change the decision he made before he left on a trip abroad (as a member of the prime minister's party). When he returns to Malaysia, this decision may be a factor contributing to setting off a conflict in the party.

These observers also think that if Datuk Samy Vellu acts to support Datuk M. Mahalingam, Datuk M. Muthupalanian, and Datuk G. Pasamanickam, the three principal candidates for deputy president, by calling them "sitting deputy party leaders," the prospects are that there will be a leadership crisis.

The question is whether Datuk Samy Vellu will open up "old wounds." Didn't the disputes and infighting which characterized the party from 1977 to 1981, in connection with the change in leadership, serve as a bitter lesson?

It should be noted that Datuk Samy Vellu, who is also minister of works and utilities, stated that he would not support any individual or group of candidates when he officially opened the congress of the MIC in July, in the belief that there would be a contest in the party elections this time.

Datuk Samy Vellu stated that if he said anything about one candidate, his action would be regarded as supporting the candidate concerned and added: "It would be better if I said nothing."

He added that the MIC is a democratic party. Any member may compete for office. Nothing and no one can prevent a member from doing so. He said: "Furthermore, there is no one in the MIC who is opposed to democracy."

It is expected that there will be a tough fight for the three positions of deputy president, presently held by Datuk K. Pathmanaban, deputy minister of health; Encik M. G. Pandithan, parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Encik D. P. Vijandran, deputy speaker of Parliament.

With the statement by Datuk Pathmanaban a few days ago that he intends to run for deputy president of the party, three sitting deputy presidents will run for reelection at the party congress on 29 August.

They will be opposed by three veteran party leaders who are significant figures and who have joined in an effort to defeat the three incumbents running for reelection.

Team Syndrome

The three principal opponents for the post of deputy president of the MIC are: Datuk Mahalingam, chairman of the Darul Ehsan Section of the Selangor Branch of the MIC; Datuk Muthupalaniappan, chairman of the Negeri Sembilan Branch of the MIC; and Datuk G. Pasamanickam, chairman of the Johore Branch of the MIC. They are also loyal supporters of the president of the party.

Although Encik S. S. Subramaniam, deputy chairman of the Darul Ehsan Section of the Selangor Branch of the MIC, is another candidate and has announced his decision to run for the position of deputy party president, he is regarded as having no real prospect of election.

According to observers, Datuk Samy Vellu is now faced with two principal choices. It is believed that he wishes to avoid having "history repeat itself," meaning the sectional, group, or regional syndrome, which we already observed in operation during the elections of other component party elements of the National Front recently.

First, he might support the three leaders now in office: Datuk Pathmanaban, Encik Pandithan, and Encik Vijandran, as official candidates, as he and Datuk S. Subramaniam, then deputy president, did during the 1984 elections for the top party leadership.

Secondly, he may present a group of candidates for vice president, consisting of Datuk Pathmanaban, Encik Pandithan, and Datuk Mahalingam, dropping Encik Vijandran. It is said that this list would be accepted by delegates to the party congress.

It is believed that there is a great possibility that Datuk Samy Vellu will adopt the second of the above two choices by supporting Datuk Mahalingam, who is also secretary general of the party, as his strategist and planner for the future.

This would be done in the hope that Datuk Mahalingam, who is not only his loyal supporter but is his outstanding "pupil," can oppose Datuk Subramaniam for the office of deputy president at least in 1990.

Levels of Leadership

It is believed that he will not support Encik Vijandran in the elections this time. Encik Vijandran will be offered the post of party secretary general without defining what his position is in the party.

The decision of Datuk Pathmanaban, Encik Pandithan, and Encik Vijandran to continue in their respective positions is an example of "fighting to the end" because, it is believed, they would fail to hold their posts and would no longer be party officials.

Observers believe that dropping Encik Vijandran will present no problem, because he won election as a deputy president for the first time in 1984 only with the support of the party president and not because of his own ability.

However, Encik Vijandran is also a "favorite son" of Datuk Samy Vellu and his loyal supporter.

Datuk Pathmanaban, who has been a deputy president of the MIC since 1979, is now contesting that seat for the fourth time. Encik Pandithan is contesting the seat for the third time, and Encik Vijandran, for the second time.

In a most recent development, it has been learned that in the contest for the positions of deputy president the three incumbents will have the full support of Datuk Subramaniam, as was the case in the 1984 party elections.

It is thought that these leaders will count on working relationships which have developed since 1981, particularly between Datuk Subramaniam and Datuk Pathmanaban, and the "working spirit" which has been created with Encik Pandithan.

Encik Vijandran, who at one time opposed Datuk Subramaniam for the position of chairman of the MIC for the West Malaysian area as the candidate supporting Datuk Samy Vellu, will also have Subramaniam's support. Up to now Datuk Samy Vellu and Datuk Subramaniam have not yet openly declared whom they will support this time.

The action by Datuk Subramaniam in supporting Datuk Pathmanaban, who is the most conservative deputy president, is due to the fact that Datuk Pathmanaban is considered to be no threat to him and would not threaten his position as a deputy president of the party.

To a large extent this will depend on the agreement reached between the two of them, that is, that Datuk Pathmanaban will not threaten the position of Datuk Subramaniam as the second ranking figure in the party, and this would open the way for him to take over the reins of the party.

Indeed, this cooperation began during the party presidency of the late Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam, when the two top leaders began to be considered and were given equivalent status at the national level.

In the party election this time it is expected that the three sitting deputy party leaders will face major opposition, at least from Datuk Mahalingam, if not from Datuk Muthupalaniapan and Datuk Pasamanickam, the two other leading candidates.

Although the positions of Datuk Pathmanaban and Encik Pandithan are not a matter of concern, Encik Vijandran is trying to represent his position as being "still in doubt" because he considers that his seat is the most vulnerable and that the election for it will be "closely fought."

Datuk Mahalingam, who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Darul Ehsan Section of the Selangor Branch of the MIC, is considered the "brains" of this group of candidates. It is reported that he has been traveling about, stating that he has additional support from Encik Vijandran.

According to observers, this is not the first time that Datuk Mahalingam has sought to use his popularity and position in trying to win one of the highest positions in the party.

They say that he had already begun to test his influence 3 years ago when he aspired to the position of first deputy president. However, later on he set his sights on one of the other positions of deputy president, when he found that his influence was not as broad as anticipated.

In his effort to defeat one of the three deputy presidents, Datuk Mahalingam is now concentrating on bringing down Datuk Pathmanaban. If he is not successful in defeating him, at least he will be able to take over his position as the deputy president furthest to the right in the party.

The decision of Encik Subramaniam, who is also a member of Parliament for the Hulu Selangor district, certainly caused a "split," particularly in the Selangor State delegation. This action by Encik Subramaniam is considered to have "stirred the pot" in an effort to weaken the position of Datuk Mahalingam.

Based on the statement by the three principal candidates that they are supported by the president of the party and that they are loyal to Datuk Samy Vellu, there can be no doubt, and informed observers also believe this, that Datuk Pasamanickam can be persuaded not to run in the election.

Unity

It is believed that if Datuk Pasamanickam runs in the election, he will certainly be defeated, and it would be better for him to withdraw from the contest. The prospects for Datuk Muthupalaniapan are more or less the same.

This is also the case with Datuk Mahalingam, if Datuk Samy Vellu clearly states that only "sitting deputy party leaders" will be official candidates this time and that he will not support Datuk Mahalingam. Then it is certain that Datuk Mahalingam will lose.

The 1,200 delegates to the congress will not undermine party unity, which was achieved only after painful experience and friction, by withholding the support which has been largely absorbed by the three "sitting deputy party leaders" up to now.

Observers are convinced of the maturity of the delegates because the question of personality or the candidates in the election of the chairman, respectively, will not influence their decision. This has been proved in other party elections.

On the whole, the election is based on the position of the candidates at the national level, because they are aware that their leaders can only do something for the Indian community if they hold positions in the government.

Although Datuk Mahalingam is placing his hopes on obtaining the support of delegates from the Darul Ehsan area of Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, and Johore, based on joint efforts with Datuk Pasamanickam and Datuk Muthupalaniapan, it is no longer clear whether, even if they work together, they will be able to obtain the support of their respective state delegations.

According to observers, it is certainly true that Datuk Mahalingam is working on Datuk Muthupalaniapan to weaken the position of Datuk Pathmanaban (member of Parliament for Teluk Kemang). However, Datuk Pathmanaban continues to have the support of his state delegation.

He is doing this because of the charisma displayed by Datuk Pathmanaban as a leader who is sensitive to the wishes and the welfare of the Indian community. Indeed, he is well considered not only by members of the MIC but also by members of the Indian community in general.

On the whole, the three incumbent candidates will have broad support, and not only from certain, specific states. Datuk Subramaniam, as chairman of the West Malaysia Branch of the MIC, will certainly make sure that the support of the 90 members of his delegation is given to the three sitting candidates.

Regarding Encik Vijandran, they think that the fact that the three are "sitting deputy party leaders" and also national figures will be taken into account by the West Malaysia delegation. He will be able to defend his seat for one additional term, by at least a narrow margin.

Furthermore, the majority of members of the MIC regard Encik Vijandran as an uncontroversial leader and characterize him as "a shining star."

The inability of Encik Vijandran, who is also chairman of the MIC Youth and member of Parliament for Kapar, to expand his influence and to strengthen his position after winning his present position in 1984 is said to be due to his own attitude of not doing anything with his post.

Will the "incumbent candidate" factor and the selection of candidates by the president of the party result in great victories of the kind which we saw in the elections in other parties belonging to the National Front just about 3 months ago? This will be seen in the elections for the top leadership of the MIC.

5170

Prem Faces Job Pressures, Moodiness Observed

42070004a Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai
10 Sep 87 pp 17, 18

[Unattributed report: "Prem, 67, Lights a Candle Alone; a Year of Pressures"]

[Text] Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, traveled to Songkhla Province to open the Tinsulanon Library. He also took that opportunity to make merit and celebrate his 67th birthday in his native province. In attendance were cabinet members and many senior government officials. These included Under Secretary Phisan Mulasatsathon; Lt Col Sanan Khachonprasat, the deputy minister of communications; Mr Suthep Thuaksuban, the deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives; Mr Amnuai Suwannakhiri, the minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister; and Maj Gen Mongkhon Amphonphisit, the commander of the 9th Division.

Frequent Moodiness, Problems Confronting Him

Gen Prem has been in a bad mood for the past 2-3 months and has sometimes lost his temper. During this period, he has flared up on several occasions. For example, on the day that he presided at the Custard Apple Day ceremony in Pak Chong District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, his "second home," he lashed out at the district officer of Pak Chong District for the slipshod manner in which he had organized the ceremony to present the awards to the winners of the custard apple contest. That is, those who went up to receive awards did not match the names on the awards. Another thing was that the microphones had not been prepared properly, with the result that the ceremony had to be stopped temporarily just as Gen Prem was opening the ceremony.

A few days later, Gen Prem traveled to Nakhon Sithammarat Province. He became angry with a district officer whose report was longer than necessary. Finally, Gen Prem said, "Is he going to give us a geography lesson or what!" Or, is this report all fat and no meat!

The latest flare-up by Gen Prem, which was quite strong, happened on 10 August when he went to preside at the queen's birthday celebration. He became very angry with senior military officers such as Admiral Supha Khotsemi, the supreme commander, and Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC.

A report from military circles informed LAK THAI about why Gen Prem lost his temper that day. He was upset by the fact that in an interview, Admiral Supha Khotsemi had voiced strong opposition to disbanding Supreme Command Headquarters. And he used the resolution of the commanders of the three branches of service as a standard and as a bargaining chip.

"Gen Prem had been angry since the early morning. When he arrived there, Gen Chawalit was there to welcome him. When they arrived at the place where the procession was to start, Gen Prem called over Gen Chawalit and asked angrily, 'Where has Supha gone? I want to talk with him.' When Admiral Supha arrived, Gen Prem frowned and walked sullenly the whole way to Sanam Luang," said the news source.

Pressure Points, Several Factors

Gen Prem is 67 years old, and he has been prime minister for 7 years. It seems that he is under the spell of the number 8. The various problems besetting him have ruined his mood. These problems stem from several sources.

1. It can be said that on the political path, Gen Prem is more isolated than at any previous time in his 7 years as prime minister. No one has ever succeeded in beating him. That includes party leaders such as Mr Phichai Rattakun, the leader of the Democrat Party, Mr Samak Sunthonwet, the leader of the Prachakon Thai Party, and even MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot, a senior politician who once succeeded in toppling several people. But MR Khukrit has failed to destroy Gen Prem. He is above others.

Gen Prem has managed to topple many politicians and soldiers, including Gen Athit Kamlangek, who waged a struggle against him but who was pushed off the stage faster than anyone would have imagined possible. There is only one person left who has Gen Prem on the defensive and that is Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, the governor of Bangkok Metropolitan and the former secretary general to the prime minister. He has struck several hard blows at Gen Prem.

The squabble between Gen Prem and his former subordinate seems likely to continue, because Gen Prem is upset about several matters. Maj Gen Chamlong is his only "subordinate" to have won an election. He has more popular support than Gen Prem, which is a great affront to Gen Prem.

Not only has Maj Gen Chamlong beaten his former boss in terms of popular support, but recently, the estrangement between these two men has increased. Maj Gen Chamlong has attacked Gen Prem on several issues. This began when he criticized government officials for going to pay their respects to Gen Prem at Ban Sisao last year. Maj Gen Chamlong also went on the offensive in the matter concerning the reinstatement of young turks, fellow classmates of his. And he dismissed Acting Sublieutenant Samoechai Phumphueng from his position as deputy governor of Bangkok Metropolitan. It was thought that Acting Sublieutenant Samoechai was an "agent" of Ban Sisao. In dismissing Acting Sublieutenant Samoechai, Maj Gen Chamlong refused to listen to the objections posed by Ban Sisao.

There are "pressures" stemming from the fact that "senior people" have placed their trust in Maj Gen Chamlong at a time when Gen Prem's popularity is declining. However, it seems that Maj Gen Chamlong is making a great effort to reach an understanding with his former boss on this issue. A news source from Ban Sisao told LAK THAI that Maj Gen Chamlong has told Gen Prem that this does not amount to anything. He is not trying to put himself on the same level. He told him this face to face. Prem just smiled slightly and changed the subject. This shows that Gen Prem is no longer close to Maj Gen Chamlong. The last several times that Maj Gen Chamlong has tried to talk with him, he has been rebuffed by Gen Prem.

2. The conditions from the military are posing greater and greater problems. There are no officers whom he can trust. Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut was very close to Gen Prem before he became the RTA CINC. But the power center is no longer the same as in the past. Gen Prem is a person who usually manages to keep his anger bottled up inside. In the past, his military base was CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 7, or the young turks. But now, Class 5, which used to be at odds with Gen Prem, has risen to the top in the army. And he does not really trust Class 5. Thus, Gen Prem's isolation in military circles has increased. There will be a major confrontation in 1988 or after the 1987 military reshuffle this September. Because he will no longer have a base of support.

3. He also faces personal pressures, which is natural for older people and people who have always lived alone. The result of these pressures is that more and more people, particularly in military circles, are losing confidence in Gen Prem.

A news source in military circles said that this is well known in military circles. This situation is very different from that 2-3 years ago. That is, military officers are worried that Gen Prem will not be able to control his emotions. As a result, few people dare to say anything, make proposals, or raise objections when they feel he is wrong. Thus, Ban Sisao now has few visitors.

"Everyone is afraid that if they oppose him or disagree with him on some issue, they will end up like Gen Athit Kamlangek. Because he has the power to discharge them. Thus, today's soldiers are different from those in the past, who were able to pound the table in front of the prime minister. Today, it is the prime minister who pounds the table in front of the RTA CINC. No one dares oppose him. If he becomes annoyed and fires people, there will be great turmoil. What is important is that the RTA CINC used to be his subordinate and so it is difficult for him to do anything," said the news source.

Prem is 67, Increased Pressures

As a result of all the problems that have arisen, the next step of Gen Prem will be to apply greater pressure. "Prem at 67" is more depressed than in the past, because

the dangers are increasing. The "warlords," including Gen Chawalit and various politicians, may not be able to endure the pressures from Prem and may move farther away from him. As those who are close to him move away from him, the pressures will just increase. How much longer will he be able to survive alone?

11943

Deputy Foreign Minister Stresses Private Sector Role

42070281c Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 22 Jul 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Diplomats To Coordinate Things With Private Sector in Carrying on Trade Abroad"]

[Text] On the morning of 21 July at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors stationed in the Asia and Pacific region met for the second day of a seminar. The seminar was presided over by Lt Praphat Limpaphan, the deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Lt Praphat said that the economic problems have become more important. Many of the country's problems are based on or stem from the economic problems. The government's present policy is to have the Ministry of Foreign Affairs play a greater role in economic matters in order to promote economic and trade relations with all countries. Our embassies and consulates around the world will serve as important tools in implementing this policy.

Lt Praphat said that today's cooperation between the public and private sectors provides a good opportunity to exchange views and discuss experiences. At the same time, the objective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to expand exports and open up new markets. The ambassadors and consuls general will coordinate things with the private sector, trade representatives, and various countries and provide help in solving the export and trade protectionist problems and expanding our markets.

The Thai Textile Association summarized the situation with respect to the export of textiles. The textiles that are exported include ready-made clothing, cloth, cotton thread, and fiber. Thai exports have shown a trade surplus ever since 1978. In 1985, the surplus was 13,656 million baht, and in 1986 the surplus was 19,894 million baht. In 1987, the export target is 35,590 million baht.

Thailand's major textile markets are the United States, the European Economic Community, Canada, and the Scandinavian countries. Our major competitors today are Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, and Indonesia.

The Thai Vegetable and Fruit Exporters Association stated that exports of vegetables and fruits have increased every year. In 1986, the value of exports was 1,550 million baht, and in 1987 the target is 2,350

million baht. The major markets include the United States, Japan, Australia, and Hong Kong. Important items include durians, mangoes, longans, and mangosteens.

11943

Chawalit Discusses CPT United Front Threat

42070269c Bangkok *BAN MUANG* in Thai
22 Jul 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Chawalit Points Out That Some Members of the Communist Front Are Unaware That They Are Members of the Front, People Should Not Think That He Is Trying To Raise the Communist Specter"]

[Excerpts] Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, talked with reporters at the army auditorium at 1000 hours on 21 July after presiding at a ceremony to accept a wax statue of Rama V from Mr Somchai Hatthakit-koson. A reporter asked him about the speech that he had given the day before to a group of ambassadors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Gen Chawalit said that "they asked me to talk about military security."

Gen Chawalit said, "I explained that the communist problem is real. I am not trying to raise the communist specter. This concerns principles and theoretical issues. I told them the facts."

Gen Chawalit said that "as for the communist problem, the communists are now using peaceful peaceful, united front tactics. This is because they can no longer wage an armed struggle in the jungle. But this does not mean that the communists can form a united front any time they want. If they succeed in forming a united front, it means that we have joined them. Put simply, it is our actions that can affect security."

The reporter said that Gen Chawalit frequently emphasizes the united front issue. Gen Chawalit said that "this is a real problem today." The reporter asked whether this means that the CPT's [Communist Party of Thailand] front is composed of people from all sectors and professions. Gen Chawalit replied that the word 'front' refers to any person or organization that does something, either intentionally or unintentionally, that benefits the communists." The reporter asked him if he could give an example to clarify the phrase "our problem." Gen Chawalit said that one example is complacency among government officials. When they consider various problems, they do not hold to political principles, which is extremely important if we are to defeat the communists. Sometimes, there is a lack of justice. Things are not considered carefully. This is very worrisome. This does not mean that what I have discussed will necessarily happen. I like to talk about things in advance in order to prevent them from occurring."

The reporter asked what can be done about the problem of returnees again fleeing into the jungle. Gen Chawalit said, "I recently received a thick document on the problems of each person. Solving these problems requires much effort and patience. I or the army, the navy, the air force, or the police cannot solve these problems alone. We must have the help of other officials, including administrative officials, and various organizations, including private organizations in the locality. They must provide help. They must understand the problems and the strategy used in the struggle to defeat the communists. In 1985 we announced that we had to develop democracy as much as possible. We said that what the Thai people wanted is a perfect Thai-style democracy. And so we had to retreat one step in order to prevent the outbreak of another political war, or stated simply, CPT war."

Gen Chawalit said that "it can be seen that the struggle to defeat the communists is not something that can be ignored. We must give attention to this. This problem is connected to all of our other problems. We shouldn't attach too much importance to this, but we shouldn't forget it either. It must always be remembered that this is one of the things that is at the root of many of the problems facing our country."

11943

Academic Views Sihanouk Departure From CGDK

42070270a Bangkok *MATICHON* in Thai 28 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Suphang Chanthawanit, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University: "Politics and Cambodia"]

[Excerpts] Last May, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the president of the CGDK, announced that he was temporarily resigning his position. He said that he was doing this to protest the fact that Khmer Rouge soldiers had attacked forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk.

News of his resignation created a great sensation among those interested in Cambodian politics. But besides the sensational nature of this, if we probe deeper, we may find something very interesting behind this.

As for Prince Sihanouk's resignation, he apparently doesn't understand that the image that the villagers have of him is not like a switch that can be turned on and off. People's trust in someone cannot be erased or postponed automatically or changed quickly. Thus, this resignation will not be good for either the CGDK or Cambodian unity.

Let's look at what was in back of Prince Sihanouk's decision to take a leave of absence. Looking at the recent activities of Prince Sihanouk, it can be seen that he has been very close to socialist countries.

During a visit to New York last October, the Austrian ambassador paid him a visit. After that, when Prince Sihanouk flew to Paris, the French government announced that Mr Heng Samrin, the leader of the other Cambodian faction, wanted to meet him.

His involvement with socialist countries does not stop with this. In February 1987, the president of Romania invited Prince Sihanouk to visit Bucharest. This was 1 month ahead of schedule, because the original schedule called for him to visit Romania in March.

After that, when Mr Shevardnadze, the Soviet minister of foreign affairs, visited Southeast Asia, he announced that the Soviet Union would be glad to cooperate in solving the Cambodian problem and take part in the negotiations on this matter. India, which is a neutral country, believes that the Soviet Union is sincere about this.

After visiting Romania, Prince Sihanouk announced his resignation as president of the CGDK. In June, the Romanian ambassador invited him to visit Bucharest again. We know that Prince Sihanouk is now in Pyongyang, North Korea.

From his activities as described above, it can be seen that Prince Sihanouk has close relations with several socialist countries. Thus, it is possible that his resignation is connected to these relations. As a result of his resignation, Vietnam's image as an invader has faded. This has served to legitimize or gain acceptance for the attitude of the socialist countries that support Vietnam. At the very least, this announcement has shown that the CGDK, of which Prince Sihanouk is the president, is disunited and wracked by internal conflicts.

11943

General, Opinion Leaders' Roundtable on Arms Stockpile

42070002 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
21 Sep 87 pp 2, 14

[Unattributed report: "Seminar on the Arms Stockpile Problem"]

[Excerpts] SIAM RAT Note: On 11 September, the Peace and Development Program, in cooperation with SIAM RAT, held a seminar on the topic "The Arms Stockpile Problem." The seminar was held at the Malai Huwanan Auditorium, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Those participating in the seminar included Lt Gen Wichit Bunyawat, the director of the Information Office, Supreme Command Headquarters; Mr Kawi Chongkitthawon from THE NATION; and Mr Phusit Prakhongsai and Mr Khothom Ariya from the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Dr Kramon Thongthammachai, the dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, opened the seminar.

Kramon

From what I understand, this arms stockpile will benefit Thailand. Based on what I have been told, an arms stockpile will be established in Thailand and we will have access to the weapons whenever we need them. We can use the weapons when needed and then discuss paying for them later instead of having to purchase weapons directly from the United States. As has been concluded, when we buy directly like that, the weapons don't reach us in time. And when they do arrive, they may not be suited to the existing situation. In my view, this program will greatly benefit Thailand's security. However, some people have said outside the cabinet room that establishing an arms stockpile will provoke the enemy into increasing their weapons to match ours. And they are afraid that Thailand will become a target of attack by the enemy, meaning Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

These things have been discussed at meetings, and people have asked whether this is how things will be. But after listening to the explanations, I think that while some of those negative results are a possibility, they do not outweigh the positive results to be gained by establishing the arms stockpile. Most of these are weapons that Thailand needs or will have to use at some future time.

Another advantage of establishing this arms stockpile is that this will draw us closer to the United States, which has been an ally of ours for a long time. However, during the past 10 years, the two countries have been drifting apart. We have been drifting apart ever since the United States withdrew its military bases and equipment from Thailand. If the United States establishes this arms stockpile here, this will help Thailand, because we will be able to use the weapons immediately. We won't have to wait for shipments from the Philippines or Hawaii, which are far away and might not be able to send us the weapons in time. Cambodia and Vietnam are receiving much aid from the Soviet Union, and most of the weapons that they are given are modern weapons. The United States has indicated that it is still interested in this region and that it would like to establish an arms stockpile here. This is a clear indication that the United States views this region as being of value to the United States from the standpoint of world strategy. It must block or halt the expansion of Soviet power. These two countries are competing in many places in the world, including Asia.

Lt Gen Wichit

Today, the problems that threaten the country include both internal problems, that is, the communist problem, and external problems, which stem from the fact that Vietnam has expanded its forces in Laos and occupied Cambodia. As a result, Vietnam's military forces, which in the past were not on Thailand's border, are now

confronting Thai forces directly. They are being supported by the Soviet Union. Even though Vietnam, which has the third largest military in the world, is not expected to invade Thailand in the near future, from a military perspective and based on the things that have been happening along the border, such as Vietnam's hot pursuit of CGDK forces across the border into Thailand and its firing of artillery shells across the border, things could escalate unintentionally. If there is a fight between the Thai and Vietnamese militaries, the Thai military can hold its own. I have no hesitation in saying this. But if there is a sudden emergency, even if we have much money, we will not be able to procure weapons in time. What is very worrisome is that if the Soviet Union gives much support to Vietnam and Vietnam implements an aggressive policy toward Thailand, the Thai military will be at a great disadvantage in terms of weapons.

Thus, in order to keep our guard up, Thai military officials have had to look for a way to solve these problems. It is felt that stockpiling weapons is one way to oppose or forestall an invasion. Modern weapons are expensive. Our purchasing and stockpiling these weapons would be very wasteful. Thailand could not purchase enough weapons, because we have to use our budget funds for socioeconomic development. Thus, we have to rely on our allies. No small country can survive by itself. If that was not true, there probably wouldn't be an ASEAN. ASEAN focuses on socioeconomic problems only. The ASEAN countries do not provide military support to each other. Thus, we have to find allies. The Indochina problem is a struggle between the Free World and the pro-Soviet communist countries. Thus, Thailand should not have to deal with the threat of a possible confrontation or war all by itself. The ASEAN countries do not have any military agreements with each other. Even though they have expressed a willingness to help Thailand if Thailand is invaded, they face the same problems. That is, they do not produce weapons, and they must spend up to 20 percent of their budget on national defense, which is a very high percentage for developing countries.

The main reason for establishing an arms stockpile in Thailand is to enable the Thai military to obtain war materials immediately whenever there is an emergency. This will increase the capabilities of the Thai military and enable it to keep fighting and protect the country from attacks that could threaten the country. This will increase our ability to deal with attacks.

Some people do not understand why there must be two arms stockpiles. The term "two arms stockpiles" does not mean that there will be two separate armories. Rather, the arms will be divided into two parts. One will consist of the arms belonging to the Thai military. The other will consist of the arms stockpiled here by the United States. These will be used based on Thailand's needs. Arms will be stockpiled at the rate of \$10 million worth of weapons per year until we have stockpiled \$50 million worth of weapons in each stockpile. Actually,

\$10 million is not that much. It is only 260 million baht. I would like to stress that it is the Thai military that will stipulate which types of weapons are to be stockpiled here based on our needs. We will then inform the United States. The United States will not stockpile weapons here based on its needs. It will send only the arms needed by the Thai military. And I want to stress that we will not stockpile any nuclear or chemical weapons. The United States is responsible for looking after and maintaining the arms in the U.S. stockpile. It must guarantee the quality of the arms. It can't stockpile weapons that can't be used. After the Thai military uses weapons from the stockpile, it must pay from them using the F.M.S. system.

Besides this, the Thai military will be responsible for maintaining the security of both the Thai and U.S. arms stockpiles. Except for a few technicians, no U.S. forces will be stationed here. The technicians will be responsible for maintaining the weapons to make sure that they are in working condition. Thailand and the United States will jointly determine the location of the arms stockpile. So far, no definite location has been stipulated. We may have to discuss this further. We must also wait until Congress revises the law. The [U.S.] secretary of defense has said that this will not be a problem.

Kawi

I will view the arms stockpile within the framework of Thai-U.S. relations and from the standpoint of military security. Because if this is viewed in absolute terms, there will be many interpretations. Thus, we should talk about this from the standpoint of security and relations over the course of the past 30 years. With respect to this, the articles that reporters have written and their interviews with senior Thai and American officials are very important.

There are three points about Thai-U.S. relations that are important. The first is weapons or military support. The second is the joint military exercises that have been held every year for the past 6 years. The third point is logistics. These are the important points that will enable us to see—and forge a link between the Thai and American governments—how important it is to establish an arms stockpile in Thailand.

Establishing an arms stockpile is not a new idea. What is new about this is that this will be the first time that an arms stockpile is established in a country where there are no American military bases. Usually, the U.S. government grants these special privileges only to NATO and other close allies such as South Korea. Thus, it can be seen that the United States attaches great importance to the establishment of arms stockpiles. The first point is that this will satisfy Thailand's needs and increase our ability to defend ourselves. Second, the United States wants to show its other allies that it still has relations, particularly military relations, with Thailand. Because recently, various problems have arisen in various places

in the world that have required U.S. involvement. This includes the problems in the Middle East and in South America. These things may have reduced its interest in this region. The fact that the U.S. departments of defense and state wholeheartedly support this shows that Thai-U.S. relations are very important. This is a signal with respect to Thai-U.S. cooperation on the security front. Because looking at the figures, the amount of aid that the United States gives to Thailand has decreased greatly. Some people may interpret this to mean that Thailand is no longer of much strategic importance as compared with Israel or Pakistan, which receive much military aid from the United States.

Phusit

I have many questions about the establishment of an arms stockpile. Actually, there are many ways to defend the country. Establishing an arms stockpile is one thing that can be done to protect us from Vietnam. What effects the establishment of this arms stockpile will have is a very important issue. It must be clear what the effects will be. If Vietnam does actually attack Thailand, do we really have the capacity to defend ourselves? According to foreign reporters, the Thai military does not have the capabilities to defend our border with Cambodia if Vietnam should launch a serious attack in this area. We have to ask ourselves, in the present situation in which Thailand's military capabilities are greatly inferior to those of Vietnam, why doesn't Vietnam attack Thailand immediately instead of waiting until Thailand has established an arms stockpile? If Vietnam's policy is to attack Thailand, I think that they would have done so by now.

What is the nature of the fighting that has broken out along the border? In my view, the border conflict stems from a desire to eliminate or destroy the pro-Vietnamese Cambodians who have violated Thailand's sovereignty or crossed the border into Thailand.

As for this arms stockpile, there are two reasons for establishing such a stockpile:

1. Thai leaders still lack confidence in their ability to stand on their own feet. This is a very important point. After forcing the United States to withdraw its military bases in 1976, we realized that the growth of the military in that period stemmed from relying on the United States for both weapons and funds. When the United States withdrew its forces, this affected the confidence of Thai military leaders, who wondered whether Thailand would be able to defend itself against Soviet power. Because after the United States withdrew, Soviet influence began to spread in this region. I think that this is a very important point and that it is one of the factors that has led to the establishment of this arms stockpile. And if it were possible, people would probably be demanding that we rely on the United States and allow the United States to establish military bases in Thailand. But the people have learned that the presence of U.S. bases can have very undesirable consequences. Thus, military aid

has not come in the form of establishing military bases. Instead, an arms stockpile will be established. Establishing an arms stockpile will have a good psychological effect on the military. The military will not worry about encountering a shortage of weapons in an emergency and will have confidence in its ability to defeat the enemy. This will be a firm guarantee that the United States will provide support during times of war.

2. The foreign policy of the United States is still a policy of opposing communism. This policy is used in helping various countries. But the form of the support has changed. Instead of pouring in American forces, it is now trying to strengthen the military forces of those countries by providing financial support. Thailand receives such aid from the United States. It has given us such aid because Thailand is a strategic point in the struggle against the Soviet Union in this region. Thus, the United States has given us much aid. However, approximately 90 percent of the aid given, or approximately 2.7 billion baht, has been given in the form of low-interest loans. Another 550 million baht has been given in the form of a grant. In 1986, the U.S. government decided to give Thailand another 130 million baht in financial aid. It also gave the Khmer coalition 130 million baht, which was given through Thailand.

In the present situation, the United States has given us several billion baht in aid. If the United States cuts this aid, this will cause an imbalance. This is because the military's present budget is very large. And this has been supplemented by American aid. If the United States cuts its aid, this will cause an imbalance, because we will have a huge military but limited budget funds. The United States has provided us with aid because we are located at a strategic point in this region.

The advantage to the United States is that they will be able to preserve their strategic point. Another thing is that this is an important weapons market for their weapons industries. Is the United States really trying to bring about stability in this region? Because by promulgating the Jenkins Bill and the Farm Act, it has created economic instability. And if the country's economy encounters problems, it's unlikely that there will be political or military stability.

It's good that Thailand and ASEAN have tried to hold an informal "cocktail party." But will this succeed? The Pol Pot group has been condemned by the Free World countries, but it is receiving support from China. This is very distressing, because the weapons support from China has increased greatly.

Lt Gen Wichit

As for the question of whether establishing this arms stockpile will be a provocation, I don't think it will. Because this is just a matter of self-defense. Our neighbors have arms stockpiles, but we do not regard this as a provocation. Also, Thailand's policy is very clear. We

have no intention of invading anyone. We want this arms stockpile for use during emergencies. Thus, this is not a provocation. Do you know how many Soviet ships are docked at Cam Ranh? Why can they do this? Can we allow them to do that without taking action? Thus, this will not provoke a war.

As for whether this will drag Thailand into various conflicts, I have already said that we will be the ones who will stipulate what weapons will be in this arms stockpile. Even though the United States will have access to these weapons, it must inform the Thai government. Thus, we will know what they plan to do. There is nothing to worry about.

Phusit

Before we establish this arms stockpile, we should investigate things to see what might happen in the future. In my view, this is an indication of what may happen in the future. In particular, relations between Thailand and the United States will be closer. Will our power to bargain with the United States be reduced if we have to depend on the United States for weapons? Part of the solution to the military or security problem lies in obtaining modern weapons. But security or stability does not depend entirely on having modern weapons. There will continue to be problems if government officials continue to interfere in trade matters.

Khothom

From the standpoint of international criticism, establishing this arms stockpile will weaken Thailand's position. At the international level, there are third-world countries and Eastern and Western countries. Our opening a new dimension will definitely come under attack in international organizations. Some will support this while others will oppose it. At the international, or national level, I am not sure whether the supporters of this proposal outnumber those who oppose this. There was little discussion on this issue and so we don't know. There was not enough discussion or argument about this. In any event, because we have gone this far toward establishing an arms stockpile, the project will probably go forward. My only observation is that if the U.S. Congress does not approve this, it will not be possible to establish this stockpile. But if Congress approves this as expected, it will be established very quickly. We need to study matters to see what might happen in the future. At the same time, I would like to tell those responsible that it is very important to disclose the facts about this so that people understand. There should be a variety of opinions that can be used to formulate a policy and course of action that will benefit the country. What I would like to suggest is that we should not be concerned only about domestic security and safety. We must give thought to the other countries in this region, because things must fit together. We can't be concerned about our security only.

Crown Prince Interviewed on Problems of Remote Areas

42070270d Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
28 Jul 87 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] At approximately 2115 hours at the Phu Phan Ratchaniwet residence in Sakon Nakhon Province, the Crown Prince granted an interview to 105 Thai and foreign reporters on the occasion of his birthday on 28 July. On behalf of the mass media, Mr Chamnong Kumalawisai, the director-general of the Department of Public Relations, wished him well. The Crown Prince told them to consider this as a chat and not an interview. He then allowed the reporters to ask questions about his trips to visit people in remote areas, the problems that he had seen, and his ideas for solving the problems.

The Crown Prince said that regardless of where we go, there are always things that need to be improved. Even things that are already good must be improved so that they keep abreast of the times. During his visits to various areas, including villages in remote areas where communications are inconvenient, he has seen that the people have various health problems, and their general quality of life is poor. For example, there are environmental and sanitation problems. The people have financial and educational problems. Some schools lack instructional materials and implements. Health problems or the family environment may make it difficult for children to study well. No one can solve all these problems or eliminate all problems. We can only do so much depending on our capabilities and opportunities. Besides this, it's impossible to go observe things and then solve the problems on the spot. Before a problem can be solved, things must be studied and analyzed and then action must be taken gradually. His trips to various areas have increased his knowledge greatly. He now knows some of the things that need to be done. Take, for example, the Somdet Pra Yupharat Hospital, which is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Public Health. He said that as an outsider and fellow citizen, now that he knows what this hospital, which treats villagers from remote areas, needs, he will try to procure these items for the hospital. He will provide the schools that lack instructional materials and implements with the items needed. And he will try to listen to the problems and ideas of the officials and villagers who come to talk with him.

Reporters asked the Crown Prince if he planned to give the queen a special present on her birthday on 12 August. They also asked about the queen's health.

The Crown Prince said that his relations with his mother are of a very personal nature and so it is not fitting to reveal what he will give. But he has dedicated himself to serving her as both subject and son. What he plans to give her is a personal matter. But what everyone can give is loyalty. He said that he has reviewed the queen's many

activities and taken note of her great concern for her subjects. He has taken over some of her duties in order to help relieve the burden on her.

The Crown Prince also said that the queen is performing her duties as normal. As far as her health is concerned, there is nothing to be concerned about. The Crown Prince and the princesses have performed tasks because the queen has constantly stood behind them and given them guidance.

The king will celebrate his 60th birthday this year. As for whether he has any special desires, the Crown Prince said that the king does not want anything from his subjects. His only desire is to see that his subjects have a good standard of living. He wants his subjects to be happy and make progress. He wants them to show solidarity. Thus, anything that promotes national security and the well-being of the Thai people will please the king.

A reporter asked what projects he plans to implement on the military, economic, and social fronts in his capacity as the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince said that that was a very broad question. As the Crown Prince, he has responsibilities to both the king and the nation and has sworn to fulfill these responsibilities. As for those matters that concern the country, or state, there are people who are responsible for handling these matters. Thus, this question should be directed toward the people responsible.

After that, the Crown Prince gave the reporters a chance to take his picture. He also provided dinner for the Thai and foreign reporters who had come to interview him.

11943

Bangkok Residents Polled on Democrat Party Personalities, Future

42070270b Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
18 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Poll on Democrat Party, Most People Are Tired of and Have Lost Confidence in the Party"]

[Text] On 17 July, Mr Worawit Charoenloet, a social and political advisor, Institute of Social Research, Chulalongkorn University, announced the results of an opinion poll conducted in Bangkok Metropolitan on the role of the Democrat Party. He said that questionnaires were sent to 900 respondents, and 814 of the people returned the questionnaires. When asked to rate the achievements scored by the Democrat Party as a member of the government coalition, 46.1 percent of the respondents said fair, 36.2 percent said unsatisfactory, and 17.7 percent said very good. Most respondents, 84.5 percent, said that there are internal conflicts within the party;

only 2.3 percent did not think that there are any conflicts. A majority, 58.5 percent, felt that these conflicts have reduced the people's confidence in the party and hurt its popularity; 25 percent said that this has caused the party to split apart; 5.3 percent felt that the conflicts have actually strengthened the party because it will be composed of people who hold the same views; and 8.3 percent said that these conflicts have had no effect on the Democrat Party.

Mr Worawit said that when asked about the conflicts within the Democrat Party, 64.1 percent of the respondents replied that the conflicts had caused them to lose faith in the democratic system; 5.9 percent said that this will benefit the democratic system; and 20 percent said that this is normal for political parties.

Mr Worawit said that when asked what should be done to end the conflicts within the Democrat Party, 13.2 percent of the respondents suggested dissolving parliament, 29.8 percent suggested reshuffling the cabinet, and 24.0 percent said that the party should withdraw from the government coalition. As for restoring the party's image, 18.7 percent said that the party should withdraw from the government coalition, 51.3 percent said that urgent action must be taken to heal the internal splits, and 26 percent said that the party executive committee needs to be improved.

When asked how great a role they expect the Democrat Party to play in the future, 10.1 percent said that there is still much hope for the party, 31.6 percent said that there is good hope, 24.6 percent were neutral, 26 percent said that there is little hope for the party, and 7.7 percent said that there is no hope at all.

Mr Worawit said that even though the present role of the Democrat Party is unsatisfactory, people feel that the party still has a role to play in the struggle to solve the problems and preserve the interests of the people. Besides this, most people feel that the party will win seats in the next election. That is, 11.3 percent said that the party will do very well in the next election, 46.3 percent said that the party will do all right, and 32 percent said that the party will do poorly. As for the role of the party leader, the most popular men were: Mr Chuan Likphai, 28 percent; Mr Phichai Rattakun, 15.5 percent; Sublieutenant Chalut Worachai, 6.9 percent; Gen Han Linanon, 6.0 percent; and Mr Marut Bunnak, 4.1 percent. When asked which people had failed to do a good job, the responses were: Mr Wira Musikaphong, 19.7 percent, and Mr Phichai Rattakun, 13.4 percent. Based on the responses to this question, it can be seen that Mr Phichai and Mr Wira represent the opposing factions in the present conflict within the Democrat Party. Neither man has played a very satisfactory role. Thus, most people are unhappy about the conflict that has arisen.

Mr Worawit said that in response to the question of whether anyone in the Democrat Party is suited to serving as prime minister, 44.7 percent of the respondents said no and 19.0 percent said yes. As for which

people in the party are suited to serving as prime minister, 31.0 percent of the respondents said Mr Chuan, 21.9 percent said Mr Phichai, and 14.2 percent said Gen Han.

11943

Daily Sees Income Maldistribution, Cites Economic Poll

42070004b Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 23 Sep 87 p 8

[Editorial: "The Thai Economy Is Still Not Good"]

[Text] Recently, the Social and Political Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University, released the results of a public opinion poll on Thailand's present economic situation. A total of 38.4 percent of the respondents felt that Thailand's economy is in a recession; 34.5 percent felt that it is about average.

Comparing today's economy with that in the past, 40.7 percent felt that the economy is maintaining its balance while 39.2 percent felt that it has worsened.

When questioned about the rural areas, 36.6 percent of the respondents felt that the most serious problems are jobs and the shortage of factors in earning a living. As for Bangkok Metropolitan, 35.8 percent felt that the most serious problem is that incomes are too low.

When asked how confident they are in the government's ability to solve the economic problems, 60.2 percent of the respondents said that the government can do little to solve the economic problems; 11 percent felt that the government can solve the problems.

Based on this poll, which sampled respondents at random using statistical techniques, it is clear that the present reaction of Thai to Thailand's economy is one of dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the economy. This is the case even though the government announced in August that Thailand's economy has expanded faster than that of any other ASEAN country.

We think that the government's statement was correct. Nevertheless, this economic expansion has not affected all Thai throughout the country.

The export industry and tourism have expanded, and revenues from these two industries have increased. But what we are uncertain about is how evenly these revenues have been spread among the producers. The problem is that the owners have not taken steps to share the profits with their employees. The effects of this are expressed in this poll, which, in short, says that the people do not believe that Thailand's overall economy will improve.

Today, with certain exceptions, the mechanisms of the state and of financiers have not improved the lives of the laborers. A clear example is that of female workers at the Sri Kao Factory, who have demanded better working conditions.

Or in general, it can be seen that the government is not administering the economy fairly. Today, many economists doubt whether the country's economic expansion is due to the steps taken by the owners or the government.

11943

Anticommunist Law Opposed, Socialist Views Defended

Daily Defends Socialism as Legitimate

42070275 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 13 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial: "The Way To Destroy Communism"]

[Excerpt] The people will definitely continue to hold socialist views. In particular, in a country with a perfect democracy, faith in a socialist economic system is not a terrible crime as long as people continue to hold to democracy with the king at the head and they have religion to cling to.

The Democratic Soldiers have asked the government, or the prime minister who issued Order 66/23, which is the proper democratic line, to review the anticommunist law, which blocks democracy. Their action is entirely correct, because this law will just lead to fighting and splits among the Thai people.

'Democratic Soldiers' on Anticommunism

42070275 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
11 Jul 87 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed report: "Repeal Anticommunist Act; It Is Contrary to Order 66/23"]

[Text] On 10 July 1987, the Democratic Soldiers issued Communiqué No 6 on the Anti-Communist Law and Order 66/23. The communiqué stated that there is a serious misunderstanding prevalent in Thailand. That is, people think that whoever suggests repealing the Anti-communist Law is a communist or communist sympathizer and that those who want to preserve this law want to fight and destroy communism.

The promulgation of anticommunist laws is one way of opposing communism. Regardless of the names given to these laws, they are all commonly known as anticommunist laws. And their contents are all the same, that is, they destroy people's freedoms based on conservative thinking, which provides a foundation for dictatorship. In actuality, the anticommunist laws are tools used by the

dictators to destroy people's freedoms. Thus, they are antidemocratic. And opposing democracy by destroying the people's freedoms actually helps the communists.

Thus, the anticommunist laws have only two effects. One is to prevent the communist party from working openly. These laws force the communist party to go underground. This is a very important factor in the preparations for waging an armed struggle. The other effect is to destroy the freedoms of the people based on the conservative thinking of the dictators. The people have no way to redress injustice and must turn to supporting the communist party and the armed struggle.

This is just the opposite of Order 66/23, which increases the freedoms of the people based on the liberal thinking of the democratic movement. This will satisfy the people and so they will support the democratic movement instead of the communists. The communist party will be an open party and will have to wage a struggle in accord with democratic methods. It will no longer be able to wage an armed struggle and so will have no chance of winning.

Thus, it can be seen that the way to lose to the communists is to base our policy on the anticommunist laws while the way to defeat the communists is to base our policy on Prime Ministerial Order 66/23, or Order 66/23 for short.

But so far, nothing has changed. Because changing our policy means implementing a new policy in place of the old one. This means repealing the policies based on the anticommunist laws and replacing them with policies based on Order 66/23. If the old policies continue to be used in conjunction with the new policies, that does not represent a change in policy. Even though the new policies will achieve some initial results, in the end, the old policies will lead to failure.

We implemented Order 66/23 7 years ago. But we have still not repealed the anticommunist laws. We are still using policies that will lead to a communist victory in conjunction with policies that will lead to a communist defeat. This is dangerous.

Thus, the Democratic Soldiers have called on those responsible for Order 66/23 to repeal the anticommunist laws, which are the basis of the policies that will lead to a communist victory, and use only policies that will lead to a communist defeat based on Order 66/23.

'Communique' Views Prem Policy 66/23

42070275 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
8 Jul 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Prem Asked To Stop Destruction of Order 66/23"]

[Text] The Democratic Soldiers issued Communiqué No 5 on how to defeat the communists. As examples, they cited the struggles in various European and Asian countries that have achieved success or suffered defeat. This

can be compared to treating a fever. A fever can be cured, or it can kill the patient depending on how it is treated. If it is treated using the methods of a quack, the patient can die even though the intention was to cure the patient.

The same is true in fighting the communists. We can fight in a way that will ensure defeat or in a way that will enable us to win. France, India, and Malaysia used the methods of expert "doctors" and so they defeated the communists. In the Soviet Union, China, and Indochina, they used the methods of quack doctors and so the communists won. It's clear that the way to lose to the communists is to use dictatorial methods based on conservative thinking. The way to defeat the communists is to use democratic methods based on liberal thinking. The first method is called opposing the communists; the second is called struggling to defeat the communists. Thailand constantly tried to oppose the communists, with the result that the communists just grew stronger. It reached the point where they were able to launch a major revolutionary war. This caused great alarm not only in Thailand but in friendly countries around the world. There was much concern about whether Thailand would be able to survive. But in the midst of this great crisis, Thailand managed to change in time. Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister and then RTA CINC, issued Order 66/23 on struggling to defeat the communists. After using this policy for just a short time, the army and government officials succeeded in winning the war started by the communists. The policies based on Order 66/23 use democratic methods based on liberal thinking, which is the way to defeat the communists just like the other countries, starting with France, that have defeated the communists. If Order 66/23 is implemented fully, Thailand will defeat the communists very quickly. But the problem is those who want to block and destroy Order 66/23 and return to the old methods, which will lead to a communist victory. Thus, the Democratic Soldiers have asked that immediate steps be taken to solve this dangerous problem before it is too late. 11943

Editorial Sees Anticommunist Law as Antidemocratic

42070269d Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
21 Jul 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Strengthening the Communists"]

[Text] Many of those who hold different economic and social views and who once returned from the jungle in accord with Order 66/23 under the guidance of the military in order to participate in developing the country have now had a change of heart and returned to the jungle. Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC has admitted that they have returned to the jungle because of the narrow-mindedness of government officials.

The reason why administrative officials and suppression officials, that is, the police, have acted like this is because we still have an anticommunist law, which the officials and police use as a tool to smear those whom they dislike or whom the capitalists have urged them to eliminate out of fear that these people might harm their interests or weaken their power, which they obtained improperly.

It seems that these administrative and suppression officials are not obeying Order 66/23, which the prime minister implemented to solve the country's problems after the military succeeded in restoring the peace after 9 years of bloodshed.

As for administrative and suppression officials being narrow-minded, don't think that this is the case in just a few provinces in the south. Administrative officials are transferred here and there throughout the country. If an official is prejudiced, he will take his prejudices with him to wherever he is transferred and cause people so much trouble that they are forced to flee into the jungle. And he will use the anticommunist law as a cover.

During the period of intense fighting, many MPs called on the government to repeal the anticommunist law, saying that it posed a great threat to national security. But the government in that period did not dare do this because of its fear of the communists. It wanted to suppress the communists completely. But instead, the number of communists increased.

After Gen Prem Tinsulanon issued Order 66/23, the situation quieted down. The economy and national security improved. And so the MPs forgot that this law is antidemocratic. What is worse, there are now indications that this law will be used to create a bad situation as urged by the capitalists.

11943

Daily: Capitalists To Blame for Continuing Anticommunist Law

42070269b Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
18 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Are We Going To Start Killing Each Other Again?"]

[Text] Order 66/23 of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon stopped the killing, the destruction of property, and the destruction of the national economy by opening up the possibility of implementing a perfect democracy for the people. Even though we still have an anticommunist law that can be used to oppress the people, the fighting and killing has stopped.

As a result of allowing people to wage an ideological struggle freely on the field of democracy, we can now use the money that was once spent on suppressing the

communist terrorists to develop the country. This benefits national security. And people have gained a much better understanding about the democratic system that is suited to Thailand's economic and social situation.

But whenever new ideas come into conflict with the old ideas of the interest groups of the capitalists and people seeking political power, a power struggle between what is right and what is wrong will always break out among the people and political parties. This struggle will lead to the growth of democracy in Thailand if the field of struggle is really a free field.

However, on this field of struggle, which is considered to be Thailand's democratic arena, there are still many undemocratic laws. The feudalists and capitalists are trying to use these laws to destroy the enemy in order to launch another people's war. They are afraid that the new democratic way of thinking will harm their interests and weaken their influence.

The feudalists and capitalists are waging a struggle to destroy those who gave democracy to the people. They are trying to destroy Order 66/23 using various methods, because they think that this has damaged their interests and weakened their influence. If they can topple those who are using Order 66/23, they will be able to continue using the anticommunist law. And that means that people will return to the jungle or seize the towns in order to wage a struggle again. And this struggle will be much more violent than any in the past.

It must not be forgotten that the Participants in the Development of Thailand did not surrender because they were defeated. Those who subscribe to the communist line did not leave the jungle because they were defeated. Because today, forces are still waging a struggle. These should not be allowed to gain in strength.

11943

Editorial Blames Wealthy for Poverty, Oppression

42070269a Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
17 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Democratic Soldiers"]

[Excerpt] It must be admitted that it was the people, particularly the students, who were in the forefront in the struggle for democracy against the dictators, or the military. But most soldiers provided support, too. Thus, things progressed without too much waste of time or loss of blood. The soldiers who cooperated with the people to restore democracy formed the Democratic Soldiers group in the military in order to end dictatorship and reduce the excessive use of power by the military.

The political changes following the events of 14 October 1973 caused the conflict between democracy and socialism, or communism, to grow even sharper. The merchants and capitalists, or conservatives, who had supported the changes feared socialism and exerted pressure to have the communists suppressed completely.

The plan by the capitalists and conservatives to destroy the communists caused much suffering among the poor people and did great damage to the economy and to national security. Thus, the military had to step in and change the face of the anticommunist struggle. This was the origin of Order 66/23.

11943

Activist Monk Views Military, Political Scene

42070001 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai
17 Sep 87 pp 26-29

[Interview with Phra Phayom Kalayano from Wat Suan Kaeo, Nonthaburi; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Would you comment on the clergy today?

[Answer] Looking at old-fashioned monks and modern monks, the old-fashioned monks do everything according to the older style. They just chant and make blessings. Those are the types of things that they focus on. As for modern-minded monks, sometimes they try to move forward too quickly. Some of those who teach at schools lack proper etiquette as monks. Some become involved with female students. As a result, some parents do not trust monks and do not want to send their children to Buddhist Sunday school.

What is important is that some monks occupy themselves solely with chanting religious formulas. Others busy themselves performing ceremonies. Today, temples are like crematories. They occupy themselves solely with conducting funeral ceremonies. Few think about spreading the Buddhist teachings. Today, before we can spread the teachings, we have to wait for the government to provide us with funds. When the money is gone, the monks stop. But evil does not wait on funds. Thus, we should be spreading the teachings throughout the year instead of waiting for funds.

What I do does not depend on funds. I was born with a willingness to make sacrifices. If people make sacrifices, much can be done to serve society.

We have not grasped the important points. Monks should rent television stations and put on religious programs. Otherwise, just worthless programs will be shown. If senior monks really want to work together, they should mobilize funds from important religious temples and temples that are important for their magic

arts, such as Wat Sothon, Wat Phutthachinnarat, and Wat Rai Khing, which have incomes of tens of millions of baht a year. This money should be used to train monks and spread the teachings.

Today, Lady Khruawan has to work very hard arranging offerings for monks and soliciting contributions. She has exhausted herself looking for money to establish a scholarship fund for monks. Actually, she didn't need to do that. Have you heard the news about the mafia at a large temple in Phitsanulok? They have deposited tens of millions of baht in the bank. They have sold joss sticks, candles, and medallions. Huge sums of money are involved. But no one has taken any steps to control this. This money should be put to good use.

Wat Sothon, for example, has an income of 13 million a year, but it does not use the money wisely. This money comes from people who come to pay respect to the Buddha image and make wishes. Some get what they want; others don't. This is a source of evil for both monks and laymen. There are mafia at these temples. Some have major problems with this. Others have less of a problem. There have not yet been any reports about some of these temples. But the large temple in Phitsanulok has been in the news. The abbot of this temple and the provincial ecclesiastical governor will be dismissed. They will be replaced by members of this mafia group. The situation is very bad.

Thus, our principle should be to use the profits for religious purposes. If people can't be stopped from acting foolishly, the money made from their foolish actions should be used to teach monks and spread the teachings. That would be better than allowing people to use this money wastefully and not controlling things.

[Question] What do you think about the blemishes in religion, such as the corruption in awarding decorations?

[Answer] This is a very difficult situation. The problem is that we can't get to the bottom of things. We can never solve the problems. Take the train accident at Hualamphong, for example. All that was found was that people had been careless. The investigation did not go any further. Officials did not consider the possibility of sabotage even though there was evidence that this may have been the work of saboteurs. When the engine began to move, why didn't the officials jump on? The engine didn't accelerate quickly. It picked up speed only gradually. They could have jumped on and stopped it. But this was not investigated.

The same is true in cases involving monks. If people try to find out why decorations have been awarded and their investigation leads them to senior monks and their followers, they will find themselves at an impasse. This is true in all circles. Continuing such investigations are exhausting and dangerous. You asked me to comment on this. But if I say any more, it could be dangerous. This is a very difficult matter.

Today, there is no one on a white horse to deal with the evils that exist here. No one dares take action. Everyone avoids these things. And so these problems are just piling up.

[Question] Then there is a mafia even within clerical circles.

[Answer] There has to be ties. It wouldn't be difficult to solve the problems within clerical circles, because monks don't have any power. They don't have tools or weapons. If a monk commits a crime, the police or military can take action against him any time. But who is behind these monks who have been given decorations. How did they get them? Who gave them to them? They definitely have ties to someone. Thus, it's impossible to investigate this. We can't go any farther into this. But intelligent people know what has happened.

[Question] Today, there are so many splits within clerical circles that MR [royal title] Khukrit Pramot has said that Buddhism is dead. Only ideology is left. What is your view on this?

[Answer] This is not true just of religion. There are splits within the political parties, too. And the same is true of religion. Look at what happened at Mecca. Many Moslems were killed there fighting each other. Things like this happen everywhere. Do disagreements always have to lead to attacks on each other? This will be the end of religion.

Things in Thailand are better. Santi Asoke, Thammakai, and Suan Mok have all gone their separate ways. But they aren't attacking each other. They have made just a few criticisms. But that's normal. It must be counted as a blessing that they aren't shooting at each other.

[Question] Actually, there should be some religious cornerstone that can serve as a rallying point for people.

[Answer] That is probably impossible unless people show compassion for each other and realize that they should not be arguing with each other. That would put a stop to the conflicts. But it's impossible to expect people to agree with each other. It's impossible to get everyone to think the same way. But just because people disagree about something doesn't mean that they should attack each other. To get along with others, people shouldn't think that they are always right.

[Question] What do you think about the country's situation, particularly today's political circles?

[Answer] Politicians have forgotten what their status is. That is, they do not "know themselves." Or their knowledge is erroneous. For example, they think that they are more important and better than others. They have let things go to their head.

Actually, politicians are people who voluntarily became involved in forming an administrative system to help people live together peacefully. Their objective should be to help the majority of people. But today, they are concerned mainly about gaining positions. Once they gain an important position, they stop making a fuss. If the quota system is not adhered to, they become upset. The opposition's only objective is to become the government. If they have opposed the government strongly and then they have a chance to join the government, they will stop their opposition. But if they have a chance to topple the government and form the government themselves, they will do so. Or if they have a chance to join the government on good terms, they will do so.

This is what they are like. They are not really trying to help each other. Rather, this is a fight to the finish to destroy the opponent. They try to cripple each other. Politicians would like to "castrate" their opponents so that they can't "breed" or expand their group or increase their capabilities. If a party is allowed to expand, it will be at the expense of other parties. People don't say, "hey, that is a clever person. He has done a better job than us. We should support him." Instead, their attitude is, "if you are better than me, I will smash you. I will beat you." This is how they think.

Today, important problems have been put aside because of the conflicts within the parties. Take drought in the northeast, for example. This is a problem that should be handled by politicians. But they have allowed the military to take the lead in solving this problem. This is a "blue ribbon" task. In the end, politicians will fade away. The military will handle everything. The people will have to cheer the military. The military will be able to stage a successful coup whenever it wants, because the people will feel that they cannot rely on the politicians but can rely on the military. The politicians are too busy arguing among themselves and have not done any "blue ribbon" work.

[Question] Thus, if the military succeeds in "greening" the northeast, that will be the end of the politicians, is that right?

[Answer] That's right. Because the people will believe that the military can get the job done and do things faster than politicians. The politicians waste time. By nature, dictators are resolute and can take action immediately to satisfy the people. If the soldiers let things proceed naturally and do not force things, they will grow more important naturally. They don't have to push themselves. The people will do that for them, because the military can bring about happiness, growth, and prosperity.

All of this should be the province of the politicians. But they have allowed the military to take this away from them. Now that the military has taken action in four provinces, the politicians must show spirit and take action in four neighboring provinces to see who can do a

better job in "greening" the provinces. This is what the politicians must do if they want to survive. The soldiers have already taken action. But the politicians are still arguing with each other.

[Question] Isn't the problem that, unlike the military, the politicians don't have any tools in hand?

[Answer] Tools are up to the people. Have the politicians gained the trust of the people? Look at the construction of the road to Phra Thatuat Doi Suthep. Did the monks have tools? They didn't have any tools at all. But they completed the job. The monks had the trust of the people. Khru Basiwichai, who built the road to Phra Thatu at Doi Suthep, did not use any money at all. He did not employ any engineers. It was the villagers who provided help. Naturally, the work could have been completed faster using equipment. But by using large numbers of people, it wasn't necessary to use equipment. The fact that the work was not completed as fast is of no importance.

[Question] There are fears that as a result of the splits among the politicians, the people will grow tired of democracy.

[Answer] They will definitely grow bored, because people are so involved in attacking each other. We keep dogs in order to attack thieves. If the dog turns on us instead, this angers us. We keep dogs in front of the house to bark at thieves. If they bark at each other, we want to chase them away. Similarly, the people would like to chase the politicians away. All they have been doing is attacking each other.

[Question] What should the politicians do to solve this problem?

[Answer] They must know what it means to show compassion. People have to understand that we are born to suffer and die. They shouldn't go crazy over this. People should try to work for the benefit of society instead of sitting about worrying about suffering and death, which are natural. Before we die, should we use our power to achieve something or to attack each other? What should we use our power for? We should try to use our power to help the people. For example, there should be a law on how to serve the people. Today, the people encounter many difficulties. When they contact officials about a land issue, they have no idea when the matter will be settled. It takes forever to get a survey note. The people suffer great difficulties whenever they have to contact officials.

The politicians should visit the localities to see how government officials serve the people. If they find that the officials are not doing a good job, they must take action. But today's politicians are not doing this.

[Question] What are your views on those now in charge of administering the country?

[Answer] Today's administrators are too concerned about the politicians. They must rely on their own capabilities. The important thing is that if they can gain the trust of the people, it doesn't matter if they are elected or appointed. The only thing that matters is whether they have the confidence of the people. If the people trust them, everything will be fine.

Regardless of how many guns the police have or how many battalions the military has, if the people don't support them, they will fail. Marcos and the Shah are good examples. It's up to the people. Thus, to gain the trust of the people, administrators should mix with the people and make a sincere effort to help them. They should not mix only with fellow party members and hold banquets for each other. The people view such things with great distaste. Such banquets offend the feelings of poor people. This will have unwanted and painful consequences.

[Question] Today, people are complaining about the government, particularly the head of the government.

[Answer] This stems from two things. First, by nature, Thai often grow tired of those with whom they have had a close association for a long time. For example, when a child has been with the father for several days, the father begins to get irritated. This is natural. Second, there is nothing to indicate that they are doing anything for the people. We have to try and see what the people are tired of. This should be analyzed.

If they are bored because the same people have been in office for so long, that is natural. When people have been in office too long, a change must be made. If they don't make changes, they should be compelled to do so. They are like despots. There is a suitable length of time for everything. That is a law of nature. Today, others have come to the forefront. As a result, people wonder, "wouldn't Maj Gen Chamlong or that person do a better job?" People start thinking more and more about other people. Because the position of the person in office is collapsing. Unless things improve, people will grow tired of him.

But if the person in office conducts himself properly and works to benefit the people, the people will not grow tired of him. People do not grow bored when they are being well served. But if their interests are affected, they will quickly turn against the person. As long as people are benefiting, they will not grow tired. But as is said, two hills of gold are not enough to satisfy a single person. This shows how people think. People will not grow tired as long as they stand to benefit. This is called suffering. Suffering means to "bear with difficulty." Happiness means to "bear easily." If something can be endured easily, it can survive. If not, it will not be able to survive.

[Question] People are saying that Maj Gen Chamlong is a good person who is suited to being prime minister. What is your view on this?

[Answer] It's a matter of timing. Goodness by itself is not enough. Take Sanya Thammasak, for example. He did not survive. If a person is good but dull, he will not survive. What is needed is a good person who can keep abreast of things. What people want is someone on a white horse. But no one wants a white horse that runs with measured steps. Good but old-fashioned people are not wanted. The person must be both good and modern.

[Question] What is your view of Maj Gen Chamlong?

[Answer] He is ready. He is both good and modern. In the past, people believed that if a person practiced the teachings, he could not work. He had to be indifferent, remain calm, and do things in a very measured way. But now, almost the reverse is true. Those who practice the teachings can do more than those who do not practice the teachings, because their minds are not focused on money, sex, and personal honor.

The time of such people has come. The people are now ready to try such people. This is natural. But this does not mean that we should place too much trust in such people. Because we can't be fully certain about them. But comparing people, I don't see anyone better.

This does not mean that Maj Gen Chamlong will be an exceptionally good person. It just means that this is a period in which there is a lack of good people. Thus, he looks good in comparison. Actually, this is not very encouraging.

[Question] Would you tell us about your life before you were ordained as a monk, what made you decide to become a monk, and what your views are on the methods now used to provide religious instruction to the people.

[Answer] I was born in Bang Yai District, Nonthaburi Province. My parents were farmers. Initially, I did not have an opportunity to gain much of an education, because my parents were poor. And at that time, there was little incentive to attend school. Thus, I dropped out of school after Grade 4.

After leaving school, I tried to find a job. I fought life and tried to acquire knowledge. I read newspapers and listened to news and educational programs on the radio in order to acquire more knowledge. The only difference was that my knowledge was not acquired in a classroom. Instead, I learned from the surrounding environment.

When I turned 20, I was ordained a monk in accord with the tradition for Thai men. It was then that my parents died. It was like being ordained to make merit for my parents at the time of their death. At first, I planned to leave the order after the customary length of time. But after I began studying the life of the Buddha, I became deeply interested. I began to realize that this once living

religion had turned into traditional ceremony. The villagers just went through the motions of making merit. After studying the teachings, I wanted to pass on what I had learned to the people.

And so I decided that it would be better to stay in the Buddhist order so that I could pass on the Buddhist teachings to others. I did not want the forms to control the teachings. That is, some people are interested only in the traditions. Monks focus their attention on conducting funerals, reciting chants, and making blessings. But those things are not really concerned with the teachings. And when monks give sermons, the people do not understand. The villagers speak one language, and the monks speak another. They are too far apart.

My objective is to reduce the gap so that we can understand each other. I searched for a way that would be acceptable. I came under much criticism during one period. The newspapers criticized me. Many groups said that this method was inappropriate. But I felt that this was appropriate for this period. I did not think that it was right to continue using the old methods, which the people did not understand. And I felt certain that the Buddha did not lecture on the scriptures in a bland manner. In India, they talk to each other very sharply. Looking at the disposition of the best people in India, it can be seen that they are not mild mannered at all. Thus, the Buddha had to have been similar to those around him. If he had been some strange figure, people would not have accepted him. He would have been viewed as abnormal.

He had to lead a normal life. But his teaching were very deep and greatly impressed people. Thus, we have to rely on the precepts to change people's hearts, not forms. Once people have been touched, the forms will develop on their own. There will not be any confusion.

[Question] Some people feel that as a monk, you should control yourself better.

[Answer] We must definitely control ourselves and not turn ourselves upside down. When I lecture, I do not gesticulate more than others. I am in better control than some laymen and monks. Some monks engage in actions that are much worse than mine. But they don't do this in public. Few villagers see these things and so there is little news about this.

Whenever I appear on television or speak somewhere else, I have to gesticulate in order to attract people's attention. Sometimes, I am speaking to a particular group, but people make video recordings and show it elsewhere. The people to whom I am talking understand and do not feel upset. But the people to whom the video is shown become upset and feel that I am not acting properly. It's like a husband and wife making love in their home. That's fine. But if someone makes a video and shows it to others, that is improper.

[Question] Has your frank talk and criticism ever created enemies or displeased people without your being aware of it?

[Answer] There is one group. But I don't just criticize. I try to give people ideas and at the same time make things enjoyable. Some of the things that I criticized, they now laugh about.

[Question] Has there ever been such a negative reaction that people wanted to harm you?

[Answer] Yes. But that has happened very rarely. If that happened very often, I would not have been able to survive to today. I have to give many sermons every day. The fact that I have survived shows that most people like my sermons.

11943

Naval Personnel in PRK Border Smuggling

42070281d Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
10 Aug 87 pp 1, 18

[Excerpts] At 2330 hours on 8 August, Police Lt Col Wichit Chalatham, the chief inspector at the Chanthaburi provincial police station in Khalung District, received a radio report from officials at the Trat provincial police station in Muang District stating that two 6-wheeled trucks with the anchor insignia and the letters NTD [Naval Transportation Department] on the door had been sighted. The truckbeds were concealed by canvass covers. It was suspected that the trucks were carrying contraband. The police officials learned that the trucks had broken through the Tha Chot police checkpoint in Khao Saming District, Trat Province, and taken the Sukhumwit-Bangna-Trat Highway headed toward Bangkok. Police Lt Col Wichit used more than 10 police and village vehicles to block the road near Tu Yam.

When the trucks arrived there, they had to stop. The police searched the trucks and found contraband television sets and video equipment. The driver of the first truck, an Isuzu, license No 43866, was identified as Petty Officer, 1st Class, Manat Malithong. Police searched him and found a 357-magnum pistol and an ammunition clip containing 21 bullets. This was an illegal weapon. The second truck, an Isuzu, license No 42230, was driven by Petty Officer, 1st Class, Sophot Yaemsakhon. The police searched him and found a 38-caliber pistol, registration No TT 1/4922. The drivers and the trucks were taken to the provincial police station in Khalung District. The matter was then reported to Police Col Sangwian Sukkho, the superintendent of Chanthaburi Province.

Shortly after the trucks were stopped, Police Lt Col Kasem Misawat, the inspector for investigation at the Trat provincial police station in Muang District, and a team of officials from this police station arrived at the scene of the arrest to take part in the arrest. They had

followed the trucks from Trat Province. Police Col Sangwian Sukkho, the superintendent of Chanthaburi Province, ordered that customs officials be asked to come inspect the goods. The boxes were unloaded from the trucks and opened. Inside, officials found video equipment and parts, 14-inch color television sets and parts, video tape reels, and large reel video tapes 20 inches in diameter used to make the tapes that are sold retail, which are now very popular at the markets. Besides this, officials also found a large quantity of parts of various types. The initial estimate of the value of the goods was 10 million baht. During the initial interrogation, it was learned that the goods had been picked up at the Trat provincial port and that they were being taken to Bangkok. That same evening, three trucks had already gotten through. After the inventory is completed, the police officials will send the goods to the Tha Chalaep customs checkpoint in Chanthaburi Province. As for the two petty officers used to transport the goods, Police Col Sangwian has informed the Chanthaburi and Trat border defense forces in order to have military officials come pick up the suspects.

A news report from Chanthaburi Province stated that the inventory of the contraband items seized by Police Col Wichit, the chief inspector at the provincial police station in Khalung District, and police officials from Trat Province took all night. Customs officials from Tha Chalaep in Muang District, Chanthaburi Province, helped inventory the items. This was completed at 1130 hours. The items includes such things as color television sets, video tapes, video tape reels, car radios, video tape heads, thermometers, operating knives, sewing machines, door equipment, electric saws, steel electric saw covers, car steering wheels, vehicle ball bearings, Kent, Dunhill, Marlboro, and Winston 555 cigarettes, electric glass cutters, foreign liquor, cosmetics, skin cream, and a large quantity of electronic repair equipment. These goods will be kept at the Chanthaburi customs checkpoint at Ban Tha Chalaep. During the interrogation, Petty Officer, 1st Class, Manat Malithong said that he had been ordered to transport the goods from the port of Trat. The goods had been transferred from another truck. He was ordered to take them to Bang Pakong District, Chachoengsao Province, where someone would be waiting to pick up the goods. He said that he did this for the sake of his family, because he is very poor and the future looked very bleak. He refused to say any more. From an investigation conducted by officials at the provincial police station in Khalung District, it was learned that both military and police officials are involved in smuggling contraband goods.

11943

SUA Mines Explode on Border, Injure Civilians

42070281a Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai
10 Aug 87 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] A reporter reported that at 1030 hours on 9 August, Police Col Nawin Singphlin, the police superintendent of Chiang Mai Province, received a radio report

from Police Lt Col Phon Triphet, the chief inspector at the Chiang Mai provincial police station in Mae Ai District, stating that a man had stepped on a mine in the Doi Rang area along the Thai-Burmese border near Village 9, Mae Ai Subdistrict, Mae Ai District, Chiang Mai Province. Thus, together with other senior police officers, he went to the provincial police station in Mae Ai District. He was informed that the man who had stepped on the mine had been taken to the Maharat Hospital in Chiang Mai City. He was identified as Mr Ai Chaidam, age 51, who lives at 88 Village 9, Mae Ai Subdistrict, Mae Ai District, Chiang Mai Province. In the explosion, his right leg suffered severe cuts all the way to the knee, and his left leg was almost severed. This happened while he was walking from his house to his tea field.

Prior to this, on 7 August, Mr Peng Manatha, age 21, the headman of Village 9, and Mr Inson Nawin, age 30, a resident of this village, had gone and searched the same area where Mr Ai later stepped on the mine. They, too, stepped on mines, and both were seriously injured. Their arms and legs were ripped by shrapnel, and they had to be carried to the hospital. The area where these mines were placed is an operations area of Khun Sa. He planted these mines in order to prevent attack by Thai officials. Mines have been planted all around Doi Rang. Border Patrol Police officials will clear this area and search for the mines planted to protect Khun Sa's base.

11943

Editorial Urges Muslim Neutrality Over Iran-Saudi Clash

42070281e Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 7 Aug 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Thai Muslims"]

[Text] Last Thursday, Police Maj Gen Kasem Saengmit, the commander of the Special Branch Police, revealed that at present, certain people in Thailand are urging Thai Muslims to stage a protest in front of the Saudi embassy in order to express sympathy for the Iranians who were killed in Mecca during the riot there at the end of last month.

This shows that that incident is being used to play politics in Thailand in the hope of putting pressure on Saudi Arabia.

Today, Thailand is friends with both Iran and Saudi Arabia. That is, we have friendly relations with these countries on several fronts, particularly the economic front. Thailand purchases crude oil from both these countries. Thus, there are no problems at the government-to-government level that will damage relations between Thailand and these two countries.

Even though the activities of this group, which is urging Thai Muslims to stage a protest against Saudi Arabia, are a private matter and even though these people have the

right to do this, this is causing the government much concern. Because this could grow into a major issue if a mistake is made, as happened in the case of the Saudi embassy in Teheran.

We would like to ask our Thai Muslim brothers of both the Shiite and Sunni sects not to listen to those who are trying to incite them. The conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a political matter and has nothing to do with religion. Some may say that what happened concerns the truth or the purity of religion and that action must be taken in order to bring about changes. We ask these people to consider things carefully. It must be understood that we are Thai. We were born in Thailand and must be loyal to Thailand. This is clearly stated in the scriptures.

Another thing is that the news reports about what happened in Mecca are still very confusing. We still don't know who was right and who was wrong. Thus, Thai Muslims must remain neutral and not lean to either side.

We want our Thai Muslim brothers to know that Thailand has been a peaceful country ever since ancient times because it has always shown great religious tolerance. It has never prevented anyone from following the religion of his choice. Thus, those who want to use Thailand as a tool to create religious conflicts must be condemned. They are not people who want to build peace based on the principles of Islam. They are making a great mistake.

11943

Lese Majeste Offender Seeks Pardon From King

42070281b Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai
4 Aug 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] A news report from the Ministry of Interior stated that Police Maj Anan Sanaokhan, a prisoner who was jailed on lese majeste charges, sent an appeal, dated 3 July 1987, from the Bang Khwang Central Prison asking the king to grant him a pardon. Maj Anan has been in prison 4 years and is scheduled for release in March 1990. He has never received a reduction in sentence. His appeal has now reached the Department of Corrections. The department will consider his appeal and submit it to the king.

The report stated that in his appeal, Police Maj Anan stated that he had been in prison for a long time and that he now realizes his mistake. Police Maj Anan made an appeal once before, but the matter did not reach the king.

The report stated that Police Maj Anan is now much more subdued than before. During the time that Mr Thawi Chusap was the director-general of the Department of Corrections, which was just after Police Maj Anan was imprisoned, Maj Anan said that planned to file libel charges against Mr Thawi. Besides this, he also

charged that prison officials were cheating prisoners by charging too high a price for the food. This may have been one reason why his first appeal for a pardon never reached the king.

11943

Wira Lese Majeste Case Resolution Draws Reactions

Prosecution Department Cites Old Cases

42070277 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 8 Aug 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Supreme Court Decision, an Example of a Lese Majeste Case"]

[Text] *Matichon* Note: In its 7 August news report on the appeal filed in the case involving Mr Wira Musikaphong, a Democrat Party MP from Phatthalung Province who was charged with committing lese majeste, the Department of Public Prosecutions also distributed copies of decisions rendered by the Supreme Court and the Military Court in cases similar to that of Mr Wira.

Military Circle 5 Court (Narathiwat Court) 11 March 1961

Criminal Case

Prosecutor for the 5th Military Circle Court (Narathiwat prosecutor), plaintiff

Violation: Lese majeste

The facts of the case were ascertained to be in accord with the charges and the defendant confessed that sometime after midnight on 6 March 1961, which was a period in which martial law was in effect, the defendant went drinking with his friends and became drunk and noisy. But he still knew right from wrong. When officials went there to break up the party, the defendant and his friends suddenly made slanderous remarks about the Thai monarchy. These remarks were made publicly in a beverage shop located next to a dance floor at the beach. Many people were present. What he said was, "Whoever drinks will become drunk. Even the king would get drunk." He was making a comparison slanderous to the king, who is respected and loved by the Thai people. This was a violation of Revolutionary Council Announcement No 16 of 27 October 1958. The incident took place in Bang Nak Subdistrict, Muang District, Narathiwat Province, which is an area where martial law was in effect.

The court's verdict was that the defendant violated Article 112 of the Criminal Code and sentenced him to 6 months in prison. However, because the defendant confessed, the sentence was cut in half in accord with Article 78. The defendant had to serve 3 months in jail. Sentence was not be reduced because of his age.

Supreme Court Verdict No 1294/2521 Issued 30 June 1978 Violation: Lese majeste

The defendant appealed the decision rendered by the appeals court on 30 June 1977

The plaintiff charged that at approximately 1600 hours on 6 January 1976, two groups of people were holding debates on opposing the communists and the price of goods. This took place at Sanam Luang. At approximately 1800 hours, those participating in the debate ended their debate and began playing the royal anthem. The people gathered there stood up to show their respect for the king. The defendant suddenly shouted, "Hey! What kind of music is that! It's terrible." The defendant did not stand up either, which was an act of lese majeste against King Phumiphon. This showed a lack of respect for the monarchy in public. This incident took place at Sanam Luang in Bangkok Metropolitan. The defendant should be punished in accord with Article 12 of the Criminal Code.

The defendant denied the charge.

The verdict of the trial court was that the defendant had violated Article 112 of the Criminal Code and sentenced the defendant to 2 years in prison.

The defendant filed an appeal. But the appeals court upheld the decision. The defendant submitted a petition, but the trial court refused to accept the petition. The defendant appealed this decision by the trial court. The Supreme Court felt that Paragraph 3 of the defendant's petition raised a legal issue and so it accepted the defendant's petition.

The Supreme Court examined the file. The facts were as follows: At the northern end of Sanam Luang, a group of students was debating the high cost of rice. At the southern end of the field near Wat Prakaao, the group of Mr Phan Wisut debated opposing communism. The defendant was listening to the debate by Mr Phan's group. When Mr Phan ended the debate and played the royal anthem, the people who had been listening to the debate all stood up. Before the anthem finished, the defendant shouted, "Hey! What kind of music is that! It's terrible." Also, the defendant did not stand at attention.

One question is whether the remarks made by the defendant during the playing of the royal anthem constituted an act of lese majeste. The royal anthem is played at various functions in order to show honor and respect to the king. In this case, the people who had gone to listen to the debate understood that the royal anthem was played in order to show respect to King Phumiphon, the present king of Thailand. And so all of them stood at attention. The defendant was a student at the Suan Sunantha Teachers College and should have understood things better than ordinary citizens. The fact that the defendant did not stand at attention like the others there

during the playing of the royal anthem and made such remarks clearly shows that the defendant intended to commit lese majeste as charged. The decisions rendered by the two lower courts were correct. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal of the defendant and allowed the decision to stand.

Editorial Concerned Over General Sunthon Reaction

42070277 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 8 Aug 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Dismay"]

[Excerpts] Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong expressed dismay at the decision rendered on 5 August by the Buriram provincial court in the case involving Mr Wira Musikaphong. The prosecution had charged Mr Wira with slandering the king, the queen, the Crown Prince, and retired government officials. But the court dismissed the charges. Gen Sunthon's reaction raises at least two questions. The first is whether he accepts the authority and status of the courts. The second is whether he is aware of social conditions in his capacity as the assistant RTA CINC.

The fact that Gen Sunthon expressed dismay at the decision rendered in the case involving Mr Wira is amazing. It's unbelievable that a person of such high rank in either the military or the judicial branch would place his personal views above judicial principles to the point where he could not keep his personal views to himself, which is what a person who is truly wise would do.

Regardless of how dismayed Gen Sunthon is by the decision rendered by the Buriram provincial court, in view of the fact that this decision was rendered by a court and the Department of Public Prosecutions has steps that it can take in accord with the law, Gen Sunthon should show respect for both the court and the Department of Public Prosecutions. He should not have expressed his personal views in such an irresponsible manner. Because by making this statement, he has involved the military, in which he serves as the assistant RTA CINC. Furthermore, Gen Sunthon indicated that he planned to discuss this with Gen Phichit Kunlawanit, the other assistant RTA CINC. Even if both men claim that they are acting in a private capacity, this is like a coded political signal to others who are waiting to follow their lead.

Paper Hails Verdict, Cites 'Political' Origins

42070277 Bangkok NAEON in Thai 8 Aug 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Duty of Citizens"]

[Excerpts] The court dismissed the case against Mr Wira Musikaphong, who had been charged with slandering the king, the queen, the Crown Prince, and retired government officials. This was another incident that again shows that Thai society is a democratic society with trustworthy standards.

The thing that citizens who are loyal to the monarchy must take note of is that the case against Mr Wira stemmed from a political conflict. Politicians were waiting for a chance to topple him in order to benefit themselves. The person who filed charges with the police against Mr Wira is a member of the United Democracy Party, which was running against the Democrat Party in the election in Buriram Province. Besides this, there were other political parties that were waiting for a chance to attack Mr Wira in order to benefit politically.

As for activities aimed at applying pressure using outside power, such as calling and threatening to plant a bomb at the Department of Public Prosecutions or creating tension in such ways, even though those involved claim that they are loyal, the results of such actions are destructive rather than constructive. Such behavior poses a danger to the democratic system and provides those who have bad intentions with an opportunity to carry out evil acts.

Possible Prosecution Appeal

42070277 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
8 Aug 87 pp 1, 2, 16

[Excerpts] The Prosecutions Committee held a meeting at the Department of Public Prosecutions at 1400 hours on 7 August. The meeting was chaired by Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, the minister of interior.

The Department of Public Prosecutions told the mass media that the work committee has considered filing an appeal in the case involving Mr Wira Musikaphong. The Buriram provincial court acquitted him of the charge of committing lese majeste against the king, queen, and Crown Prince.

Sublieutenant Wichit said that the work committee that considered the matter of filing an appeal in this case was composed of Mr Ophat Arunin, Mr Chitti Charoencham, and Mr Direk Sunthonketu. All of these men have an excellent work record and were well qualified to consider this matter. The work committee worked at night, too, in order to submit this appeal as quickly as possible. Finally, the Department of Public Prosecutions had Mr Chatchom Ankhaphin and Mr Phaithun Khampharat, prosecution officials, deliver the appeal to Mr Somsak Wiriyarat, the Buriram provincial prosecutor, in order to submit the appeal to the Buriram provincial court. The Buriram provincial prosecutor submitted the appeal to Mr Bunchuai Khongmuang, the chief justice of the Buriram provincial court, at 1445 hours on 7 August. A copy of the appeal will be sent to Mr Wira, the defendant. If no one accepts it, a public notice will be posted.

Sublieutenant Wichit said that the Department of Public Prosecutions has ordered prosecution officials to take action. This matter was considered based on the views of the prosecution officials who initially considered the matter and ordered charges filed against the defendant. The evidence presented by the plaintiff during the trial

was in agreement with the results of the investigation and the views of the prosecution officials who initially considered the matter and ordered charges filed.

"Based on the evidence, prosecution officials agree that there is sufficient evidence to convict the defendant. Thus, an appeal has been submitted in order to have the appeals court consider the case and convict the defendant as charged. Prosecution officials submitted the appeal to the Buriram provincial court this afternoon," said Sublieutenant Wichit.

As for the fact that the work committee considered the evidence in the file and felt that there were sufficient grounds to appeal this case, such appeals are routine. Several Supreme Court decisions have set precedents in such cases. One example is Supreme Court Decision 1924/1921. The Department of Public Prosecutions, the plaintiff, charged the defendant with committing lese majeste. The trial court convicted the defendant and sentenced the person to 2 years in prison based on Article 112 of the Criminal Code. The substance of the case was that on the day in question, there was a debate at Sanam Luang. At the northern end of the field, a group of students was debating the high cost of rice. And at the southern end of the field near Wat Prakaao, the group of Mr Phan was debating the matter of opposing communism. The defendant was listening to the debate being carried on by Mr Phan's group. Mr Phan closed the debate and played the royal anthem. Before the anthem ended, the defendant shouted, "Hey! What kind of music is that! It's terrible." And the defendant did not stand at attention.

The question that the Supreme Court had to answer was whether or not the remark made by the defendant during the playing of the royal anthem constituted an act of lese majeste. The Supreme Court felt that the royal anthem is played at various functions in order to show honor and respect to the king. In this case, the people listening to the debate understood that the royal anthem was being played to show respect to King Phumiphon, the present king of Thailand. And so all of them stood at attention. The defendant was a student at a Teachers College and should have understood things better than ordinary citizens. The fact that the defendant did not stand at attention like the others there during the playing of the royal anthem and made such remarks clearly shows that the defendant intended to commit lese majeste as charged. The decisions rendered by the two lower courts,

which sentenced the defendant to 2 years in prison, were correct. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal of the defendant and allowed the decision to stand.

Sublieutenant Wichit said that there is, therefore, nothing unusual about the the Department of Public Prosecutions' decision to file an appeal in this case. This is done very often. Moreover, this case concerns the nation's highest institution and so is it fitting to have a higher court consider the case carefully. This is in accord with its duties, and it is in accord with the provisions of the law.

11943

Commerce Ministry on Soybeans

42070270c Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 16 Jul 87 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Montri Delays Revising the Regulation on Importing Soybeans"]

[Text] A news report from the Ministry of Commerce stated that the cabinet has passed a resolution approving the proposal made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has promised the United States that the regulation on the import of soybeans will be revised. Instead of using a quota system, tariff barriers will be imposed instead. This got underway in September 1986, and Thailand must complete the revision by September 1987. But Mr Montri Phongphanit, the minister of commerce, is unhappy with the two solutions proposed by the Economics Department, Ministry of Commerce, that is, setting a low tariff rate and then imposing a surcharge or setting a high tariff and not imposing a surcharge.

The news report said that Mr Montri has ordered the Department of Internal Trade to hold seminars for those concerned with vegetable oils. Separate seminars will be held for each of the vegetable oils, such as palm, coconut, rice bran, and cottonseed. The first seminar will be held in August. The seminars on all of the vegetable oils are to be completed by the end of the year.

"Mr Montri has delayed this out of concern that this will generate much opposition if action is taken now. And things must be done very carefully in order to preserve the country's interests. However, if things are not completed on schedule, a request for an extension will have to be submitted to the cabinet. The United States would definitely be unhappy and complain about that," said the news report.

11943

MILITARY

PAVN Troops in PRK Said Smuggling Refugees for Pay

42070273 Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 9 Aug 87 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Vietnamese in Cambodia Could No Longer Bear Things There and Hired Soldiers To Help Them Flee"]

[Text] A DAO SIAM reporter in Prachinburi Province reported that at 0600 hours on 8 August, as Sergeant Sangiam Bunmi, the headman of Village 4, Tha Kham Subdistrict, Aranyaprathet District, Prachinburi Province, was conducting an inspection in the village, he noticed five men walking hesitantly through the village. He went to question them and learned that they were Vietnamese. They were identified as Mr Vung An Truan, age 28, Mr Vu Dat Long, age 32, Mr [illegible] Son Hua, age 16, and Mr Ding Huat Fong, age 24, who were originally from Saigon, and Mr Do Ngat Dong, age 21, who came from Bien Hoa. The five men were arrested.

During the questioning, Mr Vung, the leader of the group, said that he was a common villager. He had fled to Thailand with the assistance of Vietnamese soldiers serving in Cambodia. He had paid the soldiers 20,000 baht to guide him to the border. He said that he and the others could no longer bear the oppression under the communist system and so they wanted to flee to a third country. But Vietnam refused to let them go. Thus, they contacted Vietnamese soldiers serving in Cambodia to take them to the Thai border.

After Sergeant Sangiam finished questioning the Vietnamese, he turned them over to Police Lt Chatmongkhon Phonphai, the deputy commander of "CK" 2, Border Patrol Police Precinct 12, Sano Village, for interrogation and further handling of the case.

11943

ECONOMIC

Foreign Labor Cooperation During First Half of 1987

42090559a Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese
19 Jul 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] Carrying out the labor cooperation plan with foreign countries, the municipal guidance committee recently attempted to change its working methods to reduce difficulties and hassles. It has arranged committee exchanges, gained regular experience, and publicly announced standards and norms so people are aware and can examine and prevent negative occurrences. Compared with the requirements laid down, however, it is still unsatisfied with the results. Primary level units in some places are publicly announcing selection standards well while other places are not and are still letting doubt

and law suits occur. Meanwhile, inspections and investigations are not done extensively. As a result, this has had some overall impact on the progress of carrying out plans. Many units are organizing recruitment examinations slowly and are not meeting timeliness requirements. These shortcomings are being actively corrected with a view toward ensuring satisfactory completion of the yearly plan.

Specific results for the first 6 months of the year (as of 17 July) are as follows: the entire city has sent 2,822 people for labor cooperation, comprised of 942 men and 1,880 women. Regarding the quality of selections, the municipality has devoted attention to resolving and carrying out the army rear policy. Specifically, it has sent 398 people from families of war invalids and dead abroad (196 to the German Democratic Republic, 192 to the Soviet Union, 4 to Czechoslovakia, and 6 to Bulgaria) and 736 to complete their military obligation (416 to the German Democratic Republic, 205 to the Soviet Union, 33 to Czechoslovakia, and 82 to Bulgaria).

The remaining norms are fairly numerous for the last 6 months of the year. Therefore, to complete the plan, sectors, levels, and units as well as municipal guidance organizations must actively provide even more concentrated guidance.

6915

'Serious Negative Acts' Committed at General Rubber Department

42090001c Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 6 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Dinh Chi: "Serious Negative Acts Committed at the General Rubber Department Get Proper Punishment"]

[Text] In the morning of 13 August 1987, at a meeting with editorial staff representatives and reporters of 18 central, municipal, and sector press organs, radio stations, and news agencies, Pham Van Hy, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of the Vietnam General Rubber Department, distributed copies of a notice of the CPV Central Committee Secretariat containing conclusions about some happenings at the General Rubber Department.

The notice points out that under such conditions as a very weak material and technical base, an organizational structure being far from suitable for its assigned task, a shortage and poor performance of cadres, and undefined and unstable goals and tasks, the General Rubber Department, from its cadres to its workers, with assistance from the sectors concerned and localities, showed high determination, operated in a dynamic manner, and scored great achievements in many fields. In 5 years (1981-1985) it cultivated rubber trees, with improved planting technique, in 97,000 hectares of land, 5 times the area in the preceding 5-year period, and thus brought

to 190,000 hectares the total area of rubber plantations. More particularly, it fulfilled the task of planting 60,000 hectares of rubber trees with the cooperation of the Soviet Union and 10,000 hectares with Bulgaria, created a great deal of confidence, and opened up new possibilities for cooperation in the coming years. It was able to build an army of good and skilled cadres and workers devoted to the development of rubber cultivation.

However, besides the efforts and progress it has made, the General Rubber Department also had many serious failures and shortcomings in connection with its economic management and internal solidarity.

For many years the general department was going after quantity, or area of cultivation, without paying attention to both intensive cultivation and planting based on the right technical requirements, which led to the death of many rubber trees. Every year many trees capable of yielding latex were not tapped, and the wrong tapping technique caused waste and damages to the trees. At the same time, the good models of cultivation and exploitation were not reviewed and popularized. The fact that organization of cadres and materials and financial management had been neglected led to negative effects in many fields, losses of state properties, and depravation of a number of cadres. A serious violation was the use of hundreds of tons of rubber latex to exchange for passenger cars of late models, including many capitalist ones, while the quantities of latex put aside for export were small and there was a serious shortage of latex to be made available for domestic consumption as a goal set in the state plan. Serious cases of corruption and theft took place in Life Services Corporation, as well as in a number of other corporations and units. In the office of the general department and its public health unit, there were many expenses that went against state financial principles and procedures. Recruitment, use, and promotion of people in many cases were carried out in total disregard for regulations and sometimes resulted from decisions of a single individual. After a violation had been uncovered, the handling of it was far from just. That was one of the reasons that led to a serious loss of solidarity within the past leadership of the general department and have gradually led to factional dissension, unprincipled struggle, and a lack of the party-building spirit. The fact that there was no concern for the living conditions of workers and their families in state farms made life more and more difficult everyday.

The Secretariat, which ordered the responsible organs and the General Rubber Department to handle without delay the cases of negative action, has issued very clear conclusions to the effect that they should set deadlines and assign people to handle different cases that have remained pending and resolve such cases in a satisfactory manner, without further loss of time and neglect. At the present time, Do Van Nguyen and Le Khac Nghi, former director and deputy director of the General Rubber Department, respectively, are writing "detailed self-review reports to clearly and correctly show their

own mistakes and shortcomings and to propose positive correction" under the direct guidance of the party's Central Control Committee. The former director, Tran Quoc An, and former deputy director, Do Giap Xuan, of Life Services Corporation, which is located in Ho Chi Minh City, have been arrested and are now waiting to be tried in a court of law for their many negative deeds.

Many cadres who were involved in cases of negative action in some other general department corporations have been tried. For instance, the People's Court of Dac Lac Province, in its session on 29 July, sentenced Nguyen Chi Duc, former acting director; Ho Doan Dai, former head of the Accounting-Financial Affairs Office; and Phan Thanh Son, former head of the Capital Construction Office, of Dac Min Rubber Corporation to 5, 3, and 2 years of imprisonment, respectively, and imposed a fine of 861,000 dong on the latter for having received bribes and a cassette radio. Nguyen Chi Duc himself will be tried for a second time soon, in a court in Tay Ninh, for an additional offense: He sold 800 tons of urea fertilizer and nearly 100 tons of rice while working for Tan Bien Rubber Corporation. For 3 days—5, 6, and 7 August—the People's Court of Gia Lai-Kon Tum Province was holding a preliminary trial of the case of "violating the right of citizens to complain and to accuse; slandering to cause harm to innocent people; deliberately acting against the state's economic management principles, policies, and procedures; and stealing socialist properties" as committed by 14 cadres and civil servants in Chu Pah Rubber Corporation. Nguyen Ho, former director of the corporation, was sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment; Nguyen Ba Minh, truck driver, 5 years; Le Anh Dao, former head of the Protection Office, and Mai Dinh Dieu, former head of the latex processing shop, 4 years each; Le Van Khue, former head of the Organization-Labor-Wages Office, and Nguyen Van Vien, former deputy director of I-a-nhin State Farm, 3 years each. Seven other defendants, who had held the positions of heads or deputy heads of the offices in charge of planning, financial affairs, living conditions, engineering, and organization-labor-wages; state farm unit chiefs; shop accountant; and driver of the corporation, received sentences ranging from 18 months on probation to 2 years and 6 months of imprisonment. In the case of one defendant, Nguyen Ho, he is under additional investigation for the crimes of rape and forced confinement of people in a container. The People's Organ of Control of Gia Lai-Kon Tum Province, which conducts the investigation, will report its findings to the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

About the case of Deputy Director Ngo Van Dinh of Life Services Corporation, a conclusion has been issued to the effect that whether the defendant "was involved or not in the serious negative acts taking place in Life Services Corporation and was inflicted with any mental disorder or not will be determined by experts, but the method of committing him to the Bien Hoa Mental Hospital was wrong."

Pham Van Hy also said that in addition to consolidating the entire rubber sector and continuing to resolve the pending negative-action cases, his general department is concentrating its efforts on properly fulfilling the task of planting rubber trees in 155,000 hectares of land by 1990 to ensure correct execution of the program of cooperation with friendly countries, strengthening the intensive-cultivation work, taking good care of the trees, and putting aside a rational share of its annual capital investment for housing construction and other welfare projects, as well as requesting the central administration to revise the wages system to make it more appropriate in order to help stabilize the living conditions of rubber workers and their families.

5598

Goods Discovered on Black Market

42090001d Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
8 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The Buon Ma Thuot City Commercial General Corporation, in coordination with the responsible organs, discovered a case of unlawful shipment of state goods, which led to the arrest of Le Thi Uyen Thu, a cadre of the corporation. She was caught red-handed in the act of colluding with a group of business people led by Pham Van Thuc, deputy director of the Lanh Son (Chau Thanh District, Dong Nai Province) Cooperative, to sell 1,900 pieces of corrugated iron used as roofing material on the black market. As a result, 1.33 million dong were retrieved for the state.

5598

Vung Tau International Seaport

42090001d Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
8 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The state has just decided to make Vung Tau our eighth international seaport. It will consist of three components: the Cat Lo port area, the service and oil-gas area, and the oil import-export area. The Vung Tau International Seaport is organized in a new management pattern, with clear distinction between its two types of functions—the port affairs and the port enterprise. The head of the port affairs is in charge of administrative and economic management and is subordinate to the Sea Transport General Department. Directors are appointed

by responsible units: The director of the Cat Lo port area is appointed by the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone People's Committee and the directors of the service oil-gas and oil import-export areas are appointed by the Vietnam-Soviet Union Joint Oil-Gas Enterprise.

05598

Plan To Treat Waste Water of Oil Mini-Refinery 42090001b Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 6 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] In the last several months public opinion was paying attention to and worrying about the possibility of pollution to the Saigon River with oil following the construction of an oil mini-refinery having an annual production capacity of 40,000 tons of oil. Responding to this legitimate concern, on 5 August 1987 the Municipal Science and Technology Committee held a meeting to review the plan for waste water treatment for the oil mini-refinery (of SAIGON PETRO), with the topic authors being Lam Minh Triet and Nguyen Thi Au. This plan was urgently drafted in a short time. According to this plan, the treatment of oil-polluted waste water consists of many processes including the use of reservoirs to separate oil, to sort by means of floating, and to dissipate gases and of algae biological tanks. The processes as conducted in laboratories show the oil content, BOD5 (need for biochemical oxidation of 5 days), COD (need for chemical oxidation), and SS content (sediments suspended in water) in waste water being properly handled and failing to cause pollution in the water environment.

Many scientists highly evaluated the quality of the waste water treatment plan for the oil mini-refinery. A noteworthy fact is that the plan calling for use of algae and biological tanks is suitable for the conditions of our country and that it both helps to ensure the degree of cleanliness of oil-polluted water and involves less costs in terms of investment in the treatment project. With all the data based on scientific knowledge being available, the unanimous decision about the plan was to go ahead with construction planning for the purpose of serving in time the refinery, which will become operational by the end of this year.

5598

END

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